TL1452-1

CONCLUSÕES DO ENCONTRO DE JOVENS TIMORENSES

Considerando que os jovens são paradigma de dinamismo, força de mudança e esperança de futuro;

Considerando que é opinião generalizada entre os presentes que é já tempo de os jovens timorenses assumirem o protagonismo nos assuntos que lhes dizem directamente respeito;

Considerando que os jovens sentem a necessidade de encontrar uma plataforma de encontro onde todos possam partilhar experiências e trabalhar em conjunto pela libertação de Timor;

Considerando o exemplo que nos chega do interior da nossa terra, de dedicação sem limites e capacidade de organização dos jovens na luta pela independência, apesar da presença constante e repressiva do inimigo indonésio;

Os participantes reunidos no Encontro de Jovens Timorenses, em Lisboa de 18 a 20 de Dezembro de 1993:

Assumem-se como continuadores da luta de Timor, e construtores do futuro;

Reiteram o seu reconhecimento pelo grande mérito de Xanana Gusmão como promotor da unidade na luta e pela aposta que fez nos jovens, e manifestam-lhe a sua solidariedade agora que sofre as agruras de uma prisão indonésia;

Declaram a sua confiança na direcção actual da luta no interior, e reconhecendo a importância dos partidos políticos timorenses, instam estes a que prossigam com a reorganização e clarificação das suas situações;

Decidem unanimemente criar uma organização de juventude, de carácter apartidário e aberta a jovens de qualquer quadrante ou tendência, congregadora de todos os jovens timorenses exilados em Portugal;

Elegem uma Comissão Instaladora de nove pessoas que ficará responsável pelos tramites legais de instalação da organização;

Comprometem-se a divulgar entre a comunidade timorense os resultados deste encontro, e assumem a responsabilidade de alargar este movimento a todos os jovens timorenses em Portugal.

DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, TERÇA-FEIRA 21 DEZEMBRO 1993

Jovens timorenses em Portugal prometem mais luta

PAULA FERREIRINHA

JOVENS timorenses reunidos desde sexta-feira em Lisboa decidiram criar uma comissão que congregue toda a estrutura juvenil e crie um espaço de debate.

Foi uma reunião animada a que ontem encerrou os trabalhos deste grupo, formado por 75 jovens de todos os quadrantes políticos e ideológicos, residentes em Portugal e na Austrália.

Um «encontro positivo», foi assim que o classificou a comissão organizadora, salientando que foram «derrubadas barreiras que impediram a comunicação durante algum tempo».

No entanto, uma carta a enviar aos timorenses no interior de Timor gerou polémica e o plenário registou uma discussão animada: jovens a falar alto, assobios e palmas. «Calma», pediu várias vezes a mesa. O conteúdo da carta não reuniu consenso e a questão ficou adiada. Mas, quando foram interrogados sobre o verdadeiro motivo da controvérsia, os elementos da mesa confirmaram a «polémica sobre a mensagem a enviar aos nossos irmãos companheiros de luta». Mas qual era o motivo? A resposta só surgiu depois de uma troca de palavras em tétum. «Só depois de uma conclusão é que poderemos dizer.» E deram o assunto por encerrado.

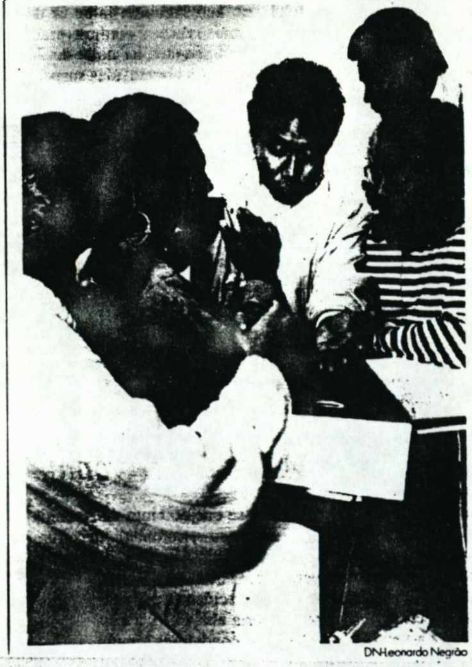
O que pensam os jovens timorenses sobre a actual situação em Timor? Autodeterminação ou independência? Estas algumas das principais reflexões feitas pelos jovens. Questões como a preservação da cultura timorense no exílio e perspectivas futuras neste territótio também foram abordadas.

«Jovens são os donos do futuro de Timor»

As formas de apoio aos jovens recém-chegados de Timor foram uma das questões que mais atenção mereceram por parte dos jovens. «Chegam com alguma frequência jovens de Timor. Uma vez em Portugal, são colocados numa pensão, é-lhes atribuído um subsídio mais ou menos miserável, esperam seis meses para terem o bilhete de identidade», desabafam. E depois apontam o dedo: «São quase abandonados pelas entidades oficiais portuguesas...»

Os jovens devem «organizar-se e apoiar-se mutuamente». Nesse sentido, foi constituída uma comissão executiva composta por nove elementos «representantes das várias tendências partidárias e de opinião».

Reconhecida como «o primeiro passo de aprendizagem», esta reunião concluiu que os jovens «são donos do futuro de Timor. Todos juntos lutamos pela autodeterminação. Queremos honrar os que tombaram e continuam a tombar. Queremos dignificar o povo que quer ser nação. O futuro de Timor está nas mãos dos jovens para "vingarmos" as atrocidades dos indonésios no corpo e alma do nosso povo».



DN-Leonardo Negrão

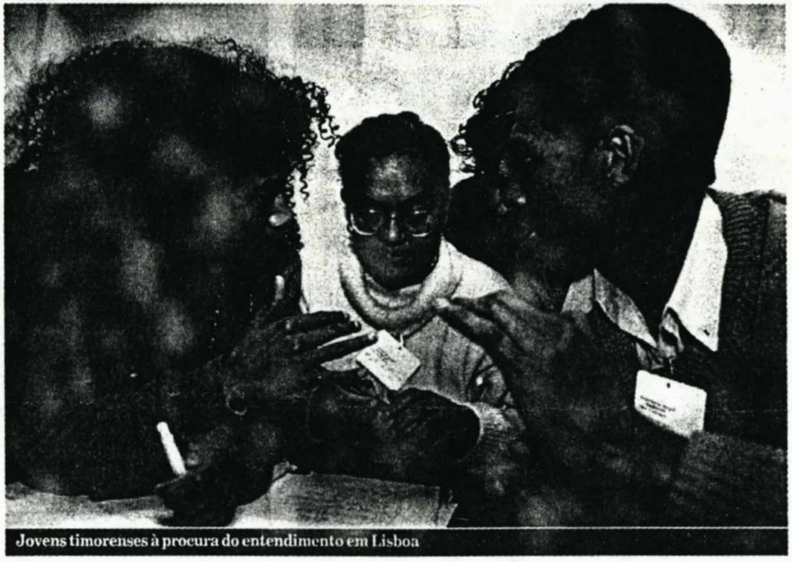
Para presidir à Associação de Amizade Indonésia-Portugal

Filha de Suharto entra em cena

Joaquim T. de Negreiros

Enquanto cinquenta jovens timorenses tentavam acertar novas formas de intervenção, o encontro de "reconciliação" continuava a produzir novidades. Depois das peregrinações cruzadas de Abílio Araújo e Lopes da Cruz, surge agora a notícia da criação de uma Associação de Amizade Indonésia-Portugal. Com a filha de Suharto à cabeça.

DANIEL ROCHA



Jovens timorenses à procura do entendimento em Lisboa

Indra Rukmana, filha do Presidente Suharto, será a primeira presidente da Associação de Amizade Indonésia-Portugal. A criação da associação e a simbólica escolha de Indra Rukmana para a dirigir foram assuntos abordados num discreto almoço londrino que, no último sábado, juntou Abílio Araújo, Manuel Macedo — o líder da Associação de Amizade Portugal-Indonésia — e a própria Indra Rukmana.

A filha de Suharto foi notícia nos jornais portugueses em Março do ano passado, quando declinou discretamente um convite para estar presente no Congresso Mundial da Federação Internacional de Dadores Benévolos de Sangue, na Póvoa de Varzim. A perspectiva de Indra Rukmana vir a Portugal desencadeou uma onda de protestos que acabou por ditar a sua ausência no congresso que acabou por elegê-la para a presidência daquela organização.

O aparecimento de um interlocutor indonésio para a entidade dirigida em Portugal por Macedo é encarado como mais um desenvolvimento do chamado encontro de "reconciliação", que ocorreu nos arredores de Londres no fim da semana passada. Outros episódios da recente ofensiva diplomática indonésia, que teve no encontro de Ware o seu ponto alto, são a viagem do general Galvão de Melo à Indonésia e a Timor, na qualidade de presidente da Assembleia-Geral da Associação de Amizade Portugal-Indonésia, e a próxima deslocação a Bali de um grupo de empresários portugueses que contam já com o indispensável visto de Jacarta. Galvão de Melo tinha ontem agendado um contacto com o bispo Belo e deve encontrar-se amanhã com o ministro Ali Alatas e com o Presidente Suharto.

A aproximação entre o mundo empresarial português e o regime de Jacarta foi um dos temas de conversa noutro almoço em Londres — o encontro de "reconciliação" foi pródigo em contactos laterais —, onde também esteve presente Abílio Araújo, desta vez acompanhado pelo embaixador indonésio na capital britânica e pelo jornalista Nuno Rocha, importante articulador da reunião de Ware.

Nuno Rocha aproveitou a ocasião para tornar pública uma declaração em que afirma estar a fazer por Timor "o que competia fazer ao Presidente da República dr. Mário Soares", que, de acordo com o jornalista, "sempre propôs a guerra entre timorenses e não paz".

Jovens querem "plataforma"

O encontro de Ware não foi objecto de uma avaliação definitiva por parte dos cerca de cinquenta jovens timorenses que ontem, em Lisboa, encerraram um encontro de três dias destinado a lançar as bases de uma organização apartidária que lhes assegure um espaço próprio de reflexão e intervenção.

Alegando "falta de informação", os jovens, ligados à UDT, à Fretilin ou independentes em relação aos principais partidos políticos timorenses, guardaram um cauteloso silêncio sobre a "reconciliação".

Uma comissão instaladora vai tratar desde já da legalização da nova entidade "congregadora" dos jovens timorenses. A ideia é reunir numa mesma organização as "diferentes sensibilidades" que ontem ficaram patentes na tempestade verbal gerada por divergências quanto à terminologia de uma carta que os timorenses presentes no encontro de Lisboa querem fazer chegar aos seus companheiros no interior do território. ▪

Antigo governador Alves Aldeia vai hoje a enterrar

Era nome de rua em Díli

PERSONALIDADES timorenses de diversos quadrantes manifestam-se unânimes no elogio à figura humana do coronel Alves Aldeia, o governador do território à data do 25 de Abril de 1974, ontem morto em Lisboa, vítima de ataque cardíaco. "As circunstâncias históricas não permitiram que lá continuasse, pois representava o regime derrubado pelos militares, mas não deixa de ser uma referência para todos nós", disse ao PÚBLICO o representante da Fretilin, Olímpio Branco, enquanto o dirigente da UDT, Zacarias da Costa, falava em "perda irreparável" de um "amigo e bom conselheiro", dado o conhecimento profundo de Timor e das suas gentes.

"Como governador, teve uma acção muito populista, gozando da simpatia, sobretudo, das autoridades tradicionais, a quem não regateava apoio para obras locais, através do saco azul", recorda Luís Cardoso, do CNRM (Conselho Nacional da Resistência Maubere). Depois de um período de eclipse político, no imediato pós-25 de Abril, reapareceu situando-se na área da UDT, a cuja nova liderança em Portugal estava ligado por laços familiares, pois era genro do vice-presidente Eduardo Massa.

Um dos seus objectivos de luta, no momento, visava a "reunificação dos timorenses" e a formação de "uma única resistência cá fora", diz Luís Cardoso. O outro, segundo Zacarias da Costa, consistia na fundação de uma associação luso-timorense que pudesse "contrapor-se" à Associação de Amizade Portugal-Indonésia, de Manuel Macedo e Galvão de Melo.

O antigo governador de Timor colaborou no PÚBLICO, com artigos em que criticou a forma como decorreu a descolonização do território, cuja "maior responsabilidade" atribuía "aos partidos timorenses e à governação portuguesa de então". Defendia, porém, a "inadiável necessidade" de um referendo que permitisse ao povo timorense "a opção pela independência ou pela integração na Indonésia" (ver edições do PÚBLICO de 21.11.91 e 27.3.92).

Ao argumento dos que apontavam o desenvolvimento do território após a anexação, Aldeia respondia que qualquer comparação só podia ser feita com o que existia à data da invasão. "Todas as ilhas indonésias à volta de Timor, as da contígua província de Nusa Tenggara Timur, com capital no Kupang, além de outras, estavam mais atrasadas do que a nossa em 1974, não falando em milhares delas desertas, pouco habitadas e até abandonadas", sustentava.

Fernando Alves Aldeia, 68 anos, prestou serviço militar na Índia(1949/53), em Angola (1960/4, exercendo funções de presidente da câmara do Lobito e de comandante da polícia de Benguela), Moçambique (1966/7) e Timor (1969/74). Cessou funções como governador desta última província em Julho de 1974, já depois da formação dos dois principais partidos do território, a ASDT (mais tarde Fretilin, independentista) e a UDT, defensora de uma ligação a Portugal.

O seu nome figura ainda, juntamente com o do ex-presidente da República Américo Tomás, numa das ruas da capital timorense, terra a que se sentia ligado ao ponto de confidenciar que preferia ser enterrado com algum objecto timorense, em vez das numerosas condecorações que possuía.

O funeral realiza-se hoje, às 14h30, para o cemitério de Carnaxide, após missa de corpo presente, na igreja de Linda-a-Velha. ▪

Adelino Gomes

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TL 1452-2

"LUSITANIA EXPRESSO" BLOCKED FROM REACHING DILI

JAPANESE VOW TO DEFY EAST TIMOR SHIP BAN

Tokyo, Feb 26, Reuter —Four prospective passengers on a Portuguese vessel due to sail to East Timor to mark an army massacre of civilians say they are determined to make the protest voyage despite a ban by Indonesia.

Three Japanese students and a Portuguese professor in Tokyo will join about 100 other passengers and journalists aboard the Lusitania Expresso, which is due to sail from Darwin in Australia for East Timor on March 3.

Indonesia was widely criticised for the shooting last November 12 in the East Timor capital of Dili in which scores of people died. On Tuesday it banned the ship from its waters, accusing its sponsors of being troublemakers.

But the four participants from Japan are defiant. "I'm happy to die if I had to, if I could spread the message around the world that I was dying for freedom of East Timor," Mitsuhiro Matsumoto, a student at Okayama University, told reporters on Tuesday evening.

"I would rather get arrested than simply go back without doing anything in Timor," said Jaime Coelho, a professor at Sophia University in Tokyo.

Yoko Furuyama said: "I'm actually very afraid that something bad will happen to me during the voyage but I have to be there to see what happened in Timor, by interviewing the people and spreading the message to the Japanese people after I return."

The four criticised Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe who said last week the massacre would not affect Japan's aid to Indonesia.

"Japan's attitude makes the world think that it bases its interests mostly on economics, which also makes Japan a criminal," said Furuyama.

Japan, Indonesia's largest aid donor, provided 235 billion yen (1.9 billion dollars) last year.

Indonesia has failed to win international recognition of its rule over the impoverished territory of East Timor, which it invaded in 1975 shortly after the Portuguese left.

At the final stage Furuyama could not get on board because she had to go to New York at the weekend. 235 billion yen is Japan's aid to Indonesia of fiscal 1991 and this includes 170 billion ODA and 65 billion loan by Export-Import Bank.

PEACE SHIP EN ROUTE TO EAST TIMOR

[Peace Media Service, Feb 28] A hundred students and journalists from 19 countries, including the former Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, are due to set sail March 7 from Darwin, Australia, bound for Dili, the capital of East Timor. They hope to lay a wreath of flowers at the cemetery where Indonesian troops opened fire November 12 on a crowd taking part in a funeral procession, killing 100 people. The organizers said the initiative was "aimed at maintaining the issue of East Timor on the international agenda." The "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso left Lisbon January 22 and has since departed from the port of Djibouti on the eastern coast of Africa. It is due at Darwin March 6.

Five Indonesian Navy vessels have been ordered to intercept the ship before it reaches East Timor. East Timor military commander Brig. General Theo Syafei warned that passengers would be arrested if they tried to land. There have also been threats of force. The House of Representatives Home Affairs Commission accused the ship of embarking on a trouble-making mission and said the Navy should sink the boat if organizers tried to land. "The commission rejects the ship because the call would only stir new unrest in East Timor," Marcellinus Adang da Gomez said during a hearing.

Indonesian officials in East Timor have arrested at least three people for allegedly setting up a committee to welcome the envoy. Indonesia has reimposed a ban, lifted in 1989, on visits to East Timor by foreign journalists. Authorities in the former Portuguese colony have carried out sweeping checks of identity cards on the streets in recent days and re-established checkpoints throughout the region, the news magazine *Editor* reported.

The Portuguese government has expressed moral support for the Lusitania Expresso voyage but has withheld official backing. "Personally I can only admire the efforts of those who have undertaken this initiative," President Mario Soares said after bidding farewell to expedition leader Rui Marques.

An Indonesian military council investigating the massacre has found six soldiers guilty, including the former East Timor military commander and the former regional military commander. Three others have been dismissed from the military and one is temporarily off active duty. Despite such disciplinary actions, however, apparently the Indonesian military has no fundamental objection to the army attack on the funeral procession. On March 1 Indonesian Defense Minister Benny Murdani said that those killed at Dili had provoked the troops. He told the Jakarta newspaper Kompas that during the demonstration, protestors expressed support of the pro-independence movement. Murdan said he regretted the casualties and insisted that the government had not ordered the shootings of demonstrators, but added, "Certainly the government and the armed forces could not allow this [demonstration] to continue."

On February 28 the Jakarta Attorney's office released 17 East Timorese students from several cities in Java and Bali detained since they took to the streets in November demanding self-determination for East Timor. Another five are to face trial. Two of the students to face trial have been charged with subversion, which carries the death penalty. Three others face criminal charges of publicly expressing "enmity, hate or insult" towards the Indonesian government. The students had called on the United Nations to pressure Jakarta into allowing a process of self determination for East Timor.

The Indonesian government regards those East Timorese who advocate self determination as a threat to national security. Native Timorese have no rights of free speech or assembly. East Timor, 1,250 miles east of Jakarta, was annexed by Indonesia in 1975.

FIVE WARSHIPS OFF TIMOR

UPI, Jakarta, March 2 – Indonesia said Monday it had deployed five warships off East Timor to block a planned visit by a Portuguese "peace ship" carrying journalists and students sympathetic to pro-independence East Timorese.

Military authorities said they had stepped up their preparations to prevent the Lusitania Expresso from docking in the East Timorese capital of Dili to mark an attack Nov. 12 by Indonesian soldiers on unarmed East Timorese demonstrators, killing at least 50 people.

Authorities in the former Portuguese colony have carried out sweeping checks of identity cards on the streets in recent days and re-established checkpoints throughout the region, the weekly news magazine *Editor* reported.

PEACE MISSION STILL ON COURSE

TAPOL report, 3 March 1992

The planeload of people who left Lisbon at the weekend to join the Lusitania Express, a Portuguese car-ferry which is on a peace mission to East Timor, are currently in Sydney.

Their air trip to Australia had to take a round-about route because the Indonesian authorities would not permit the aircraft to fly over Indonesian air space. The people now in Sydney are due to leave for Darwin tonight.

Meanwhile, a group of Australian participants will leave Adelaide and Melbourne for Darwin, also tonight. They include Shirley Shackleton, whose husband Greg was one of a five-man Australian TV crew shot dead by Indonesian troops in October 1975 as they were filming Indonesian incursions into East Timor. Tony Stewart, whose brother died on that occasion, is also in the peace-mission group. The third member is Andi Alcock, East Timor activist in South Australia.

A big gathering is planned for Thursday night in Darwin, as a send-off for the peace mission which plans to set sail from Darwin for Dili over the weekend.

The arrival of the Lusitania in Darwin was also delayed by obstructions created by the Indonesian navy, preventing the ship from reaching Australia through Indonesian territorial waters. It has not yet docked in Darwin harbour.

"WE WILL NOT GIVE UP THIS MISSION"

AFP, Sydney, March 3 – Organisers of an international human rights mission sailing to East Timor said Tuesday they were neither deterred nor intimidated by threats from Indonesia, but would try to avoid confrontation.

"We will not give up this mission and they cannot force the ship to go back," spokesman Antonio Ravara said.

"We are prepared to fight, but we will do so in a reasonable way because we believe we can achieve our objective without becoming martyrs," he said.

Ravara is one of a group of about 90 journalists and human rights activists, including former Portuguese president General Ramalho Eanes, flying via Sydney to the northern port of Darwin to join the former car ferry Lusitania Expresso.

At least 28 nations are represented on the peace boat mission, which is being financed by public subsriptions in Portugal.

"The goal is to stop the violation of human rights and to try to give the opportunity to the people to have the right of self-determination," spokesman Ravara said.

One passenger on the ship is a young East Timorese student, recently freed by the Red Cross from what Ravara said was months of torture and abuse in detention in Dili.

The student, whom organisers asked not to be named, was arrested after being involved in a demonstration during a visit by the pope two years ago. He is now a naturalised Portuguese citizen.

TIMORESE STUDENTS 'REJECT' SHIP

Forwarded from Indonesians@janus

RRI, as monitored by BBC, March 3 – Students at East Timor University released a statement on 3rd March saying that they rejected the presence of Portugal's "peace boat", the Lusitania Express, in Indonesian waters, Antara news agency reported. The students' statement said that East Timor was an inseparable part of Indonesia by the will of the people of East Timor. Efforts to involve "foreign parties" would only cause unrest, the statement said. Portuguese students on the Lusitania Express would not help to settle problems in Dili but only hurt the feelings of the East Timorese, who had suffered Portuguese colonialism for 450 years. The statement was circulated to provincial authorities and Indonesian government figures.

LUSITANIA EXPRESS UPDATE

Compiled and translated by Billy Williams

A DIFFICULT DAY IN LISBON

Consternation reigned in the office of "Forum Estudante", organizers of the "Peace in Timor Mission", on mid-day Friday 28 February when a phone call from Atlantic Air announced that the 87 participants could not fly out that day on route for Darwin as planned. The problems arose in part from difficulties in arranging a route which would not enter Indonesian air space but were compounded by a cash crisis as not enough of the promised funds had arrived in time and Thai Air was asking for 300,000 dollars in cash to fly out the group.

Frantic phone calls to cash sponsors followed while all concerned went through some "bad moments" as it continued to be very much in doubt whether the trip would be able to go ahead. The group were taken to a hotel for the night. Finally at 4 am next morning it was announced that anonymous donors had contributed enough of the half a million dollars outstanding for the group to catch a flight at midnight which would in arrive in Darwin 4 days later.

The 87 (21 nationalities in all) who took off from Lisbon at midnight on the 29th, will meet with the rest of the 125 participants in Darwin. The ship itself is scheduled to arrive in Darwin on 6 March and set sail for Dili next day March 7.

THE 127 PARTICIPANTS

Along with 9 organizers and a medical team of 4, the group includes 18 Portuguese students and 26 Portuguese journalists.

The guests include General Ramalho Eanes (former Portuguese President); Prof Barbedo Magalhaes (Oporto University); Ana Nunes (Peace is Possible in East Timor Group); Fr Jose Lopes Baptista; Rui Oliveira Costa (trade union leader) from Portugal.

International figures include Shambhu Chopra (president of the Indian Society of Human Rights) and David Mitchell Targan (dean of Brown University USA) and a considerable number of Australian political and Church figures.

The 46 international students come from 21 countries in all and are comprised of the following: Australia (1); Belgium (2); Brazil (2); Canada (3); Cape Verde (1); Czechoslovakia (1); China (1); Denmark (1); France (1); Germany (3); Greece (3); Guinea Bissau (1), Holland (2); Italy (2); Indonesia (3); India (2); Japan (4); Spain (3); Sweden (1); UK (4) USA (5)

RIFTS HEALED IN DARWIN

Meanwhile in Darwin, during the hours of uncertainty about events in Lisbon, two Timorese who had not spoken face to face for 15 years, agreed to sit at the same table. Joao Carrascalao of the UDT and Alfredo Ferreira of FRETILIN agreed to put aside past bad feeling, which dates back to the civil war in East Timor in 1975, and they arrived at a concensus whereby the two separate reception parties planned to be held in different parts of the city, would be united in a single joint reception. (Publico 1 March)

"THE NAVIGATOR"

The leading figure in the organization of the mission is "Forum Estudante" founder Rui Marques, a 29-year-old medicine graduate-turned-broadcaster on the Catholic Church's Radio Renascensa. Marques, a charismatic figure who only came into the public arena when this project began after the massacre in Dili on November 12, refuses to talk about himself to the press and has fought against media attempts to personalize the organization of the mission. In a profile in Expresso under the headline "The Navigator" a colleague sums up Marques's years in the at times turbulent, internal politics of Church broadcasting in Portugal, saying "he has a very strong character - he generates either very firm support or strong repudiation in those around him." Marques has continually told journalists who ask about the dangers of the planned voyage that "this is not a provocation;it is a peaceful and a symbolic gesture. The adventure is in carrying it off; the only risk is the risk of failure" (Expresso 22 February)

CANBERRA WORRIED

The Australian government is said to be worried about the outcome of the mission to Dili and although denying the threats reportedly made by Philip Flood, ambassador to Jakarta, that "Australia will not sacrifice its good relations with Jakarta, which are at the moment stronger than ever before", has warned the students that it will take "appropriate measures" if they "act illegally" (Publico 22 February)

ARRESTS IN DILI

The Jawa Pos reported that a number of Timorese were arrested in Dili in early February on suspicion of trying to organize a welcome committee for the Lusitania Express. (Publico 10 February)

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO THE LUSITANIA EXPRESS?

The following is a slightly abridged translation of an article by Captain Jose Manuel Cabral head of SINCAP, the Portuguese Merchant Seamens' Union in Publico of 20 February.

The voyage of the Lusitania Express to Darwin (Australia) and Dili (East Timor) raises questions of the application of the rules regarding international maritime law. The ship will sail through the territorial waters of a territory (East Timor) which is under the jurisdiction of the United Nations and under the administration of a distant State (Portugal). This distant State does not in fact administer the territory due to the occupation by a neighbouring State (Indonesia), de facto administrator, although it is not internationally recognised as such. Yesterday, in Jakarta, the commander of the eastern zone warned that patrols would impede the passage of the Lusitania Express through Indonesian waters and through the so called Sea of Flores forcing it to sail outside these waters in the same way as fishermen who go there to fish without authorisation. Is this action in accordance with the applicable international maritime law? Besides replying to this question this article analyses the various options open to the ship's captain on his voyage, particularly on the route from Darwin to Dili.

1) The ship aims to land in Dili, so that a group of passengers and possibly crew go to the Santa Cruz Cemetery to lay a wreath of flowers in memory of the victims of the massacre of the 12 November 1991. What are the regulations concerning the disembarkation of crew and passengers at ports of call?

As far as crew members are concerned, the regulations define a situation in which the immigration officers of the port authority issue safe passages which allow them to disembark and move around for as long as the ship is in port albeit only within the port's administrative area. The regulations stipulate that the crew members who are nationals of the country which administers the port have guaranteed access to land; the remaining crew members may or may not be authorised to disembark depending on whether diplomatic and/ or consular relations exist between their countries and the country which administers the port, or depending on whether there is a situation of diplomatic or armed conflict between the two countries. An exception is made in the case of people who are ill or wounded who are always authorised to disembark for treatment, together with the captain who even in the most adverse circumstances is usually authorised to disembark.

As for passengers the normal regime for visas applies. So, in Dili, from a legal point of view, all the Portuguese passengers and crew should automatically be given authorisation to disembark. As for the remaining non Portuguese passengers tourist regulations will apply. However we could have a situation where of the crew, due to their not being Portuguese, only the captain will be authorised to disembark and of the passengers only those whose countries have diplomatic and/or consular relations with Indonesia (North Americans, Japanese, Australians, Dutch etc.) will be authorised to disembark.

2) The Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister, Ali Alatas, recently declared that the Indian Ocean was not the Pacific, insinuating the possibility of some action against the ship before its arrival in Darwin.

One of the possibilities that we can foresee is the unleashing of an attack on the ship(let us remember the episode of the ecological movement Greenpeace's ship which was blown up by French secret service agents). In all we consider this an unlikely possibility, due to its raising by the minister and we wonder about his real intention when making such an affirmation, because we believe that in the context of internal Indonesian political struggles it may have served to dissuading extremist action by more radical military officers. Another possibility that we foresee is based on a bureaucratic action which would impede disembarkation from the ship which we will consider later.

3) What is the legal basis for the threats made yesterday by the Indonesian Vice-Admiral?

Ships have the right of safe passage through the waters of coastal States, if they reach the applicable standards of navigational safety. As the Lusitania Express is not transporting arms we do not see how Indonesia can legally impede the passage of the ship through its waters, if the captain expressly refers to this right which can only be restricted in war zones or areas where there is a serious threat of natural disaster. The declarations of the Indonesian Vice-Admiral, commander of the Eastern zone have no legal basis.

As far as we know Indonesia has never declared that a state of war exists in the area, so that it would be difficult to defend the non-granting of the ship's right of safe passage.This right states that a ship can sail through the waters of any coastal State but can not land or have anything to do with any vessels coming from the land. However a coastal State can stop any ship passing through its waters for visits and inspections namely in relation with customs crimes (smuggling) or drug trafficking.It is in a situation like this that we see a need for great caution on the part of the ship's captain, in the sense that he should avoid the "planting" of articles which could incriminate the ship or "justify" its detention or even imprisonment.

4) Can the maritime authorities carry out safety inspections on ships berthed in their respective ports.

The answer is yes. For example, the captain of the port of Darwin can carry out, on his own initiative, an inspection of the conditions and safety measures of the ship and if anomalies are detected that could in his opinion endanger the ship and its crew and passengers he can prevent the ship from leaving until these anomalies are corrected. Here we are faced with a bureaucratic action which is highly objective and which could delay the ship in port for the time necessary. The European coastal States created a similar system through the "State Port Control," commonly known as the"Paris Memorandum" of which Portugal is a signatory.

5) Supposing that the ship continues its voyage from Darwin to Dili and arrives at the port area of this city, what could happen?

On its arrival in the port's pilot area the ship has to request authorisation to enter the port and a pilot boat for berthing manoeuvres. This authorisation depends on the captain of the port of Dili who could refuse it due to a lack of available quays or for other reasons of a bureaucratic nature thus forcing the ship to anchor in the Dili anchorage (an inlet protected by raised land) for an indefinite period of time without the entry dispatch being issued and putting the ship in a position where it could not establish contacts with the land or with any vessels from there.

CONCLUSIONS

It is our understanding that neither the Lusitania Express nor its crew and passengers are running any physical risks but the ship could be the object of bureaucratic measures, through safety or other inspections which would immobilise it in a port of call (namely Darwin) or in the Dili anchorage. A second hypothesis may be the stopping of the ship in waters which the Indonesians consider their own (between Darwin and Dili) for customs inspections where it could be expelled from Indonesian or Timor waters or even possibly detained.

All these possibilities will have been carefully considered by the ship owner, by the freighter and by the captain and they will have decided what actions to take should one of these situations arise.Fundamentally this is purely theoretical. We hope that the ship continues without incident on its voyage to Dili and that it fulfils the object of its journey: that we do not forget Santa Cruz.

ABRI COMMANDER BANS BOAT

UPI, Jakarta, March 4 - Indonesian armed forces commander Gen. Try Sutrisno asserted Wednesday the government will bar the arrival of a Portuguese "peace boat" sailing to East Timor to commemorate a massacre there.

Sutrisno said East Timor waters are closed for the ship Lusitania Expresso, and he warned none of the passengers will be allowed to land.

"If they forced on to enter East Timor waters aboard the Lusitania Expresso boat, authorities will take action against them in accordance to the international as well as Indonesian laws," Sutrisno told reporters.

"We are doing this to safeguard our integrity and sovereignty," he said, adding that the intruders would be arrested and deported.

Sutrisno blamed the Portuguese government of inciting the students and others to participate in a voyage to lay wreaths at Dili cemetery, scene of a November 12 massacre of pro-independence demonstrators by Indonesian troops.

"Portugal is responsible for this ill-purposed voyage, although they have excuses that it's being arranged and managed by non-government organizations" he said. "Portugal is doing this merely for its own political interest against Indonesia."

PROTESTERS ARRIVE IN DARWIN

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 4 - More than 200 Timorese, many weeping, gave an emotional welcome in Darwin on Wednesday to some 90 students and activists taking part in an international peace mission to East Timor.

The protesters, the last of a contingent of 120 students and activists to arrive in Darwin, will board the converted Portuguese car ferry Lusitania Expresso when the "peace boat" reaches Darwin at the weekend.

"The first goal of the mission is to take a step toward a resolution of the question of East Timor," said East Timor Peace Mission spokesman Antonio Ravara. "We want to stop the violation of human rights in the territory.

"It's not since November 12 that this has been happening, it's been 16 years of violations of human rights and 200,000 deaths. We want to see all governments, and see the United Nations, do something for the Timorese," he said.

The protesters from 28 nations arrived in Darwin to cries of "Viva Timor, Viva! Long live the struggle!" by more than 200 Timorese exiles living in Darwin, some 800 km (500 miles) southeast of East Timor.

Ex-Portuguese president Antonio Ramalho Eanes, travelling as a private citizen, said the mission was not an official venture but Lisbon sympathised with its goals.

"This seeks to attract international attention to the predicament of the Timorese...so that all governments pressure Indonesia for change, and so human rights are respected (in East Timor) as they are everywhere else around the world," he said.

"The right of the Timorese people should be considered as have the rights of other peoples around the world. In particular the case of Kuwait comes to mind," Eanes said.

THE PEACE SHIPPERS

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 5 - Activists planning to sail a "peace ship" to East Timor in defiance of an Indonesian ban said on Thursday they would not provoke a confrontation but would challenge Jakarta to respect United Nations resolutions.

Mission organiser Antonio Ravara told a news conference the mission, initiated by the Lisbon-based student group Forum Estudante, would conform with all maritime regulations and would not endanger the safety of the passengers or the ship.

Ravara said the ferry would halt if it was challenged at the periphery of Indonesian waters. The organisers would then read over the radio to the Indonesians the United Nations resolutions which recognise Portugal as the administering authority and then demand to be allowed to proceed.

Ravara said the students planned to embarrass Indonesia without endangering passengers. They would not provoke Jakarta's military and experienced merchant marine captains aboard would advise what the ferry could legally do at each point of any encounter with Indonesian vessels.

"Any provocation will be by Indonesia, we will follow international and maritime law," Ravara said. "They will have to break laws, we will not give them a reason to board us."

Many of the 120 students from 28 nations, most in their early 20s, said their parents were worried.

"My father was very upset," said Canadian student Genevieve Appleton. "It's hard to explain why you'd want to do something like this, I mean it does seem like a suicide mission to parents, but it's not of course.

"(My father) told me that the Indonesians have a different view of human rights than our country does, and we really don't know what's going to happen. But I feel that the risk is worth it, because so many people have died already," she said.

Indonesian student Reza Muharam, whose place aboard was withdrawn on Wednesday because of fears he would be victimised on returning home, said the invasion of East Timor was now recognised by many Indonesians as a mistake.

"Once we believed in freedom and independence, and we were a champion in the anti-colonial movement," he said.

"(The invasion of East Timor) undermines our own principles, so it is not only for me this is important but also for Indonesia," he said.

"For the first time in 16 years, student organisations are daring to speak out in favour of (an independence) referendum in East Timor. We just want the killing stopped, it has cost too many human lives."

British student Nick Wood accused his country of putting arms sales to Indonesia ahead of human rights: "Human rights, it seems to me, goes right to the bottom of the agenda if there's a lot of money involved."

American student Lorne Rider said governments had ignored the prickly issue of East Timor for 16 years but November's massacre had brought the issue to prominence.

"(A peace mission) is better than watching our leaders squirm in a mire of hypocrisy, and have nobody care about it."

INDONESIAN STUDENTS NOT TO BOARD TIMOR PEACE BOAT

Source: Missao paz em Timor, press release, 5 March 1992.

Mission Peace in Timor organizers decided not to allow two Indonesian nationals who are participating in the mission to board the Lusitania Expresso when it leaves Darwin for Dili, East Timor, this Sunday.

"The risks of going simply outweigh the benefits, both for their personal security and that of the mission," said mission leader Rui Marques. "Of the students representing twenty-one countries, the Indonesians are the only ones who cannot count on some form of intervention from their home country should they be arrested or tortured. Their presence may also endanger the mission by provoking Indonesia into an act of vengeance specifically directed at domestic dissenters."

"We are fully aware of the risks involved in going on the ship and are prepared to accept them, as we would be ashamed if Indonesia had no representatives in this mission which seeks to halt the human rights abuses in our own country," said Aeri Harapan, a member of the Front Demokrasi Indonesia. "We feel it is important to give courage to other Indonesians who oppose the army's brutal actions in East Timor and elsewhere. Nevertheless, we understand the position of the organization and we will do our best to help the efforts of the mission in Darwin."

Reza Muharam, also a member of the Front Demokrasi Indonesia, similarly agreed to stay in Darwin to decrease the danger to the rest of the goup of 120 international students and journalists. "We have already placed our lives on the line by publicly announcing our participation. If the Indonesians want to kill us, they will do it later when we are out of the world's spotlight."

LIVING WITH GENOCIDE

DPA, Darwin, March 6 - Organisers of a "peace mission" to East Timor said in Darwin on Friday that the purpose of the trip was to promote human rights there.

"If something is not done to draw international attention to the plight of East Timor, then the world will have to live with the wholesale genocide of an entire nation," said Nick Wood, a British spokesman for the group.

ASHAMED TO BE CANADIAN

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, Mar 6 - Canadian students taking part in an international "peace mission" to East Timor were warned on Friday that Indonesian forces could react violently, and were urged to abandon the quest.

Consul Refean Tessier, carrying a letter from Canadian High Commissioner Michael Berry, met the students privately at the peace mission's headquarters here and later told journalists the students could face serious consequences.

"There is a serious risk of violence, and if there is a confrontation there are Indonesian laws that, for instance with respect to illegal entry or illegal manifestation of demonstrations, which could bring consequences to their act," he said.

"Essentially, consular assistance is very hard if they are in Dili and (our consulate is) in Jakarta," he said.

David Stewart, one of the four Canadians joining the ferry, said his compatriots were undeterred by the warning and criticised Canada's silence over the East Timor issue.

"I'm ashamed to be a Canadian," he said.

"I consider what Canada has done to help the Timorese a travesty of justice and human rights. Canada...is an accomplice to genocide."

SYAFEI ON TRAITORS

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, Mar 6 - East Timor's military commander has said any Indonesian journalist aboard the Lusitania Expresso was a traitor.

Brigadier General Theo Syafei's statement followed reports that a journalist from a leading Indonesian publication was planning to travel on the ship to East Timor.

Syafei said additional security measures had been imposed, including checking of documents permitting people to travel in the territory.

But the peace mission may yet make it to Dili.

Timorese sources in Darwin, in regular contact with family and friends in East Timor, said hundreds of people suspected of opposing Jakarta's rule have been taken to the mountains by Indonesian troops, and pro-Indonesian Timorese moved in.

They said others in Dili have been told not to speak Portuguese to foreigners, nor approach Portuguese nationals — developments which the Timorese believe is an indication Indonesia is considering allowing the ferry to dock.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT PEACE BOAT

Provided by the East Timor Peace Mission, Darwin, Australia 8 March 1992:

SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.

March 6, 1992

His Excellency President Suharto
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dear President Suharto,

I am writing on behalf of two of my constituents, Mr. Richard Chiang and Ms. Tiffany Ronain, who will be traveling to East Timor the weekend of March 6, 1992. Mr. Chiang and Ms. Ronain are students at the University of California, Berkeley. They are participating in an international student delegation who wish to peacefully express their sympathy for those who suffered from the tragic events in Dili on November 12, 1991.

Given their peaceful mission, I hope the Indonesian authorities in East Timor will accommodate the delegation's wish to visit the Santa Cruz Cemetery. Knowing of your concern about the tragedy, I hope that you will be understanding of this group's desire to offer their heartfelt sympathies.

Best regards,
Sincerely, Alan Cranston

FROM REP. BARNEY FRANK (MASSACHUSETTS)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EAST TIMOR PEACE MISSION:

I admire your courage and dedication to the cause of human rights, and I urge the Indonesian government to respect your peaceful mission and allow you to enter into East Timor. I will continue to do all I can to support self-determination for East Timor

PEACE SHIPPERS' CAPTAIN

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, Mar. 6 – Portuguese merchant marine captain Jose Manuel Cabral, one of two tacticians advising organisers and who will travel aboard, dismissed reports from Jakarta that Indonesia might be able to stop the ferry in international waters.

He said the Indonesians could not legally board the ferry in international waters unless it had been chased there from Indonesian waters.

The Dili-bound ferry could be searched by the Indonesians in international waters but if nothing illegal or menacing was found, the ferry's passage could not be stopped, he said.

Although none of the participants have asked for a visa, violations of Indonesia's immigration laws cannot be dealt with until the ship docks in Dili, and therefore the ferry cannot be boarded for immigration reasons, Cabral said.

PEACE MISSION WILL NOT PROVOKE INDONESIAN ARMY

East Timor Peace Mission March 6, 1992, Darwin, Australia

The East Timor Peace Mission announced at a press conference today in Darwin, Australia that it will not provoke a conflict with the Indonesian Navy. Mission Spokesman said that its only goal is to guarantee the human rights of the East Timorese people.

The Mission is an international group consisting of students and journalists from 21 countries, which plans to sail a ship called the Lusitania Expresso to Dili, East Timor and to lay flowers on the graves of the 180 victims of the Santa Cruz cemetary massacre. The victims were killed in Dili when Indonesian troops opened fire without warning on a large group of peaceful demonstrators who wanted independence for East Timor.

"This mission is for human rights," said Nick Wood, a British spokesperson for the Mission. "If something is not done to draw international attention to the plight of East Timor then the world will have to live with the wholesale genocide of an entire nation."

The mission also stated that it will not provoke the Indonesian Navy. This is an interesting point, considering the impossibility that the Lusitania Expresso, a 72-metre, 700 tonne unarmed ferry could provoke rumoured 5 naval warships waiting for it off the shores of East Timor.

"If the superior force of the Indonesian Navy prevents the ship from entering East Timorese waters, we will not resist," said Portuguese mission member Antonio Ravara. "If we are prevented from landing we will have achieved our aim if our effords are publicised throughout the world."

The Indonesian government has said that if the Lusitania Expresso enters within 12 nautical miles of East Timor, it will do so on its own risk. Indonesia however made no comment about the participation of 2 Indonesian nationals. Reza Muhuram, an Indonesian Mission member and political activist believes his country made a historic mistake when it invaded East Timor. "It violated its own principle of independence, and its strong anti-colonial philosophy." says Muhuram. "I am a member of the East Timor Peace Mission to demonstrate that Indonesians feel a strong sense of solidarity with that country's people."

Since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 the death toll of East Timorese has risen to 200.000 people, roughly one third of the population. The international community has passed resolutions in the United Nations for Indonesia's complete withdrawal from East Timor but has backed these with little or no concrete action. International human rights groups have reported that the East Timorese have faced torture, jail without trial, deportation and mass execution.

The Lusitania Expresso will sail to East Timor as soon as it arrives in Darwin. At the moment it is 880 km northwest of the city. Many of thje members' governments have said they can offer little help if the students run into trouble with the Indonesian Navy. Only one thing is for certain, the people of East Timor wait on the beaches for the Lusitania Expresso's arrival.

For NEWSLETTER *our correspondent Karin Kruse (Sweden) has joined the East Timor Peace Mission.*

"WE ARE NOT LIKE GREENPEACE"

AFP, Darwin, March 6 – Confrontation with Indonesia will be avoided if possible, organisers of a "peace boat" mission due to leave here early next week for East Timor said Friday.

"We are not crazy guys, we are not like Greenpeace," said mission spokesman Paulo Veiga, referring to the London-based environmental group.

"We don't want to create confrontation with the Indonesian navy," Veiga told reporters.

Veiga maintained that the Lusitania Expresso, a Portuguese car ferry which will be carrying some 120 students, journalists and activists, had the right to sail to the East Timor capital Dili.

Organisers of the mission claim the ship has the right to sail to Dili because the United Nations has not recognised Indonesia's 1976 annexation of East Timor.

The Lusitania Expresso was expected to arrive in Darwin late on Sunday, setting out for Dili some 700 kilometres (435 miles) to the north on Monday.

Earlier, organisers announced that two Indonesian students had been barred from joining the Lusitania Expresso because of possible reprisals against them by Jakarta.

"The risk of them going simply outweigh the benefits, both for their personal security and for that of the mission," said mission leader Rui Marques in the statement.

Their presence could endanger the mission by provoking Indonesia into an act of vengeance against domestic dissenters, he said.

The barred students, Aeri Harapan and Reza Mhuaram, both members of the Indonesia Democratic Front, said in the statement they understood and accepted the decision by mission organisers not to allow them on the boat.

STUDENTS RESIST GOVERNMENT PRESSURE TO QUIT PEACE MISSION

Press release from the East Timor Peace Mission, Darwin. March 7, 1992.

Several Western governments have issued warnings to their citizens who are participating in the international peace mission to East Timor. Representatives of the Canadian, British, and Australian governments have all issued statements warning of the risks involved and advising their citizens not to participate in them mission.

Despite these warnings, the Canadian, British, and Australian citizens remain set on sailing to Dili to lay wreaths at the Santa Cruz Cemetery where Indonesian troops massacred between 50 and 180 civilians. John Millard, one of the Canadians, said that "No amount of pressure from our governments will stop us from going. This is a question of human rights and we feel a moral obligation to show our support and solidarity."

Yesterday in Darwin, Australia, where the East Timor Peace Mission is currently based, a representative of the Canadian Embassy in Australia personally delivered a statement to four Canadians that urged them to "consider their actions carefully" and advised them "not to proceed on board the Lusitania Expresso."

A political officer from the British Embassy in Canberra advised all participants to remain polite at all times and not provoke the Indonesian navy. The officer also added that noisy confrontations should be avoided.

In Australia, Senator Gareth Evans, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, issued a warning last week to all Australian citizens considering participating in the peace mission, saying that they should "think carefully before participating."

On an additional note, a representative of the US State Department argued that there was no need for the mission, as the human rights situation in East Timor was witnessing an "upward trend."

PEACE MISSION FEARS

AP, Darwin, Paul Alexander, March 7 – Peace activists said today they were scared but determined to attempt to reach the violence-wracked province of East Timor despite warnings from Indonesia to stay away.

East Timor's military commander, Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei, said Friday that a naval blockade will be organized.

"If any of them manage to sneak past the special task force, they will not be able to reach their destination or carry out their objective of laying wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery," he said Friday in Dili.

Syafei said four people, including Santa Cruz's mayor, have been arrested for trying to form a committee to welcome the ship.

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., sent a letter Friday to Indonesian President Suharto, saying he hoped the delegation would be allowed to carry out its mission.

"It's getting a little scary," said Tiffany Romain, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of California at Berkeley and one of six American students planning to make the trip. "It seems so surreal...I'm kind of hoping we get turned around because that's the safest situation and we still will draw media attention to the Timorese people."

"In some ways, I don't want to think about it because I might change my mind. But I honestly believe they're not going to blow the ship up," said Berkeley student Richard Chiang, 21, who also heads the school's chapter of the human-rights group Amnesty International.

INFIGHT ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE LUSITANIA EXPRESSO

Original document (in English) issued in Jakarta, 7 March 1992 by INFIGHT, the Indonesian Front for the Defence of Human Rights:

As the time approaches for the arrival in Dili, East Timor, of the Lusitania Expresso, on a peace mission as manifested in its passengers' aim to lay wreaths at the graves of the victims of the Dili 12 November massacre, the Indonesian government, in particular the military, has adopted a less than wise position. Such lack of wisdom is reflected in the government's claims that the Lusitania Expresso wishes to incite political provocation, and consequently, its entry into Indonesian waters will be refused.

Infight thus considers it necessary to respond to this matter as follows:

1. The peace movement reflects a trend of world solidarity in the field of human rights and democracy.
2. The peace movement involves non-violent action which sooner or later is to become a popular international political culture, and to substitute the violent militaristic methods in the resolution of political conflicts.
3. Indonesia must take a careful and wise stance in welcoming the era of the peace or non-violent movement, so as not to isolate itself in the context of current world concern for human rights.
4. The peace movement, be it in the form of the arrival of the Lusitania Expresso to lay wreaths or whatever form, should not be responded to in a reactionary (as exemplified by accusations of provocation), or militaristic way.
5. Moreover, the peace mission of the Expresso includes the involvement of peace activists from 21 countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, Italy, Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal and the USA. This fact shows that the mission has been organised by international peace activists and not only by Portugal.
6. Indonesia should adopt a more responsible foreign policy which views the peace movement in a more favourable light, rather than continuing with its typically reactionary stance.
7. In the final analysis the will of the people in all its manifestations must be considered as the most valid form of political legitimacy in the formulation of policy.

INDONESIA MONITORS PEACE SHIP

UPI, Jakarta, March 7 – Indonesian authorities have located the Portuguese "peace" ferry Lusitania Expresso carrying students and journalists to East Timor to protest last November's cemetery slayings on the island of Dili.

Indonesian naval forces detected the vessel 60 miles south of Roti island heading for Dili [sic], an official spokesman told Antara.

Indonesia has accused Portugal of inciting people to take part in the protest voyage, and authorities warned that the ship would not be permitted within 12 nautical miles of East Timor.

EAST TIMOR PEACE MISSION REJECTS N.T. CHIEF MINISTER

Press Release from East Timor Peace Mission, Darwin, 8 March 1992.

A spokesperson for Mission for Peace in East Timor today rejected Northern Territory Chief Minister Marshall Perron's statement that the mission was "provocative." Mr. Antonio Ravara re-emphasised that the mission was entirely peaceful and would strictly adhere to international law and maritime convention. "We merely wish to focus international attention on the continuing human rights abuses in East Timor."

Concerns that the ship might be held up by bureaucratic protocol were allayed today when the Waterside Workers' Federation joined a large number of other unions in their expression of solidarity with the mission. The workers promised to expedite the necessary port procedures, and to provide security for the ship while it is docked at Port Darwin.

The Australian Congress of Trade Unions (ACTU) had earlier endorsed the mission "against the brutal action of Indonesia's armed forces" in East Timor. In a statement, the ACTU Council requested that the Australian Government "facilitate and expedite the visit of the ship to Darwin" and urge the Government "to provide any support and protection for of those involved in the peace mission."

Shirley Shackleton, widow of Greg Shackleton, who was one of the five Australian journalists killed by Indonesian troops at Balibo in 1975, will join several other prominent people on the deck of the Lusitania Expresso at 11 am Monday at a press conference. "Pontius Pilate, thy name is Gareth Evans," said Shackleton, referring to the Australian Foreign Minister's support for the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and his recent warnings to the peace mission.

Prominent personalities from several countries who are joining the peace mission when it sets sail for Dili on Monday, will make statements at the press conference. They include Victorian MP Jean McLean (Australia), Father Jaime Coelho from Japan, Prof. Antonio Barbedo of the University of Porto (Portugal), Dr. John Tomlinson of the Australian Council for Social Service, New South Wales union leader Paul Matters (Australia), and former Portuguese President, General Antonio Ramalho Eanes. The Choir of the Darwin East Timorese community will perform a song written in support of the mission.

CANADIANS REFUSE TO LEAVE PEACE MISSION

EAST TIMOR ALERT NETWORK, Canada, 8 March 1992

A representative of the Canadian High Commission in Australia has flown to Darwin to urge four Canadians not to join 120 international students and journalists in a peace mission to East Timor that leaves later today. The representative, Rejean Tissier, delivered a statement expressing the concerns of the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, urging the Canadian participants to "consider their actions carefully."

The East Timor Peace Mission will set off for Indonesian-occupied East Timor by boat later today (Sunday morning, Australian time; Sunday night, EST). Indonesia has already informed the mission it will not be allowed to land in East Timor, and deployed five warships in the area to enforce this order. The mission plans to lay flowers on graves at Santa Cruz cemetery, site of the massacre of between 100 and 200 people by Indonesian soldiers last Nov. 12.

Despite the strong warning from the government and pressure from the Canadian High Commissioner, the four Canadians are determined to make the trip.

David Stewart, one of the Canadians, said: "None of us will be dissuaded from making this trip and carrying out the mission, no matter how much it may embarrass the Canadian government. It is not a question of economics, but of human rights."

According to Peter Monet, a documentary film-maker from Ottawa, "The Canadian government's investment and trade with Indonesia is so high that they don't want to do anything that would jeopardize the economic relationship between the two countries."

Although $30 million in Canadian government-to-government aid to Indonesia was suspended in light of the November massacres, $46 million in existing aid was left untouched. Last month, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas met with McDougall, who expressed her "satisfaction" with the Indonesian government's investigation of the Nov. 12 massacre. Monet said: "Based on this tacit acceptance of the investigation — which Amnesty International has called 'fatally flawed and unacceptable' — full bilateral aid is likely to be reinstated."

In 1991, Indonesia was the third-largest recipient of Canadian aid.

The Canadian government statement on the East Timor Peace Mission noted that the students on board would "violate Indonesian law" by entering the waters surrounding East Timor. According to international law as laid down by the United Nations, the waters are under the administration of Portugal, the colonial ruler of East Timor until the 1975 Indonesian invasion. Tissier said that although Canada does not recognize Indonesia's de jure possession of East Timor, with the presence of their military forces Indonesia "has the means to enforce their laws in East Timor."

"The clear implication of all this," according to Genevieve Appleton, a student at Ryerson Polytechnic in Toronto representing the Ontario Federation of Students on the mission, "is that our government recognizes that Indonesia has the right to use force against a peaceful mission, whereas in fact it has no jurisdiction under international law to do so at all."

Monet sees the strong diplomatic and economic relationship between Canada and Indonesia as the central factor motivating the Canadian government to pressure its citizens not to join the boat. "For the first time," he said, "the Canadian government is going to be forced to publicly defend its position of support for Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor. They are trying to sweep the issue of East Timor aside and want to avoid any incident that might push East Timor back into the spotlight."

Canada has actively lobbied against UN resolutions condemning Indonesia's occupation of East Timor and its repeated violations of human rights, including the Nov. 12 massacre. Most recently, Canada opposed a European Community resolution on East Timor at the UN Commission on Human Rights which last week concluded its annual meeting in Geneva.

PEACE SHIP IN DARWIN

UPI, Darwin, March 8 – The Portuguese peace ship Lusitania Expresso arrived in Darwin Sunday, docking before its attempt to run the gauntlet of Indonesian warships on its mission to East Timor.

Darwin port authorities said the vessel entered Darwin Harbor at 5.45 p.m., dismissing earlier reports from Indonesian authorities that they had located the vessel heading towards Dili, the East Timorese capital.

Around 100 activists, including a former president of Portugal, General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, were waiting to board the ship for the final leg of the voyage, which authorities warned could be dangerous.

Indonesia has reportedly deployed five warships in anticipation of attempts to defy its warning.

About 150 activists from all over the world intend to make up the ship's total complement with a mission to lay wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili where more than 50 people were killed when troops opened fire on mourners at a funeral on November 12 last year.

Eighty-five peace activists from 23 countries, including Eanes who was president of Portugal from 1976 to 1986, flew into Darwin on a charter flight Thursday to join the ship.

In Jakarta, Indonesian officials said they had banned unauthorized journalists from covering the arrival of the ship.

Amir Ali, head of the East Timor information office, said security forces would be checking at three points of entry — Ngurah Rai airport on Bali, El Tari airport on Kupang of West Timor and Komoro airport in Dili — to prevent non-accredited foreign journalists from entering East Timor.

A spokesman for the ship, Antonio Ravara, said the mission had already been successful in focusing worldwide attention on human rights violations in East Timor.

"The more public and media attention we can draw ensures the safety of people there," he said in Darwin Sunday.

Organizers said the ship would set sail for Dili Monday or Tuesday, regardless of the risks.

One student activist aboard, American Dean Falbo, said: "We are in a unique position to get together with students from various other countries to make a strong statement about what youth in America thinks about what's going on in East Timor."

Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, said he would have officials convey to the ship's captain the nature of the potential risks that he may be running on behalf of himself, his crew and passengers.

He disassociated Australia from the voyage saying: "We don't believe this particular ship visit will improve the situation in East Timor in any way and we don't regard it as contributing in any useful way to a process of longer-term reconciliation in the province."

INDONESIANS "BUZZED" PEACE SHIP

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 8 - The Portuguese "peace boat" Lusitania Expresso arrived off Darwin on Sunday, preparing to sail for East Timor, and protesters waiting to embark said they would defy Indonesian warnings to stay away.

The car ferry, chartered in Portugal, is due to sail to the East Timorese capital of Dili on Monday.

Planes in Indonesian colours buzzed the ferry as it sailed towards Darwin, one of the protest organisers, Paulo Veiga, quoted Captain Luis dos Santos as saying.

"He said two planes criss-crossed the boat then came back and did the same again," said Veiga, who spoke to the captain by satellite telephone.

The captain, in a telex earlier on Sunday, said his ship was buzzed by an aircraft bearing Indonesian colours and flying 30 metres (100 feet) above sea level.

"I ask if this is an appropriate and normal procedure from an Indonesian navy air plane in Australian waters," dos Santos said in his telex.

In Jakarta, Antara news agency confirmed that the Indonesian armed forces had been tracking the progress of the Lusitania Expresso. But authorities were not available to comment on the buzzing charges.

More than 50 journalists plan to cover the ship's voyage to East Timor. Indonesia on Saturday decided against flying foreign journalists to navy ships to cover the approach of the "peace boat" but local journalists will be allowed.

Some potential protesters — students and others from 21 nations including former Portuguese president Antonio Ramalho Eanes, the nine Portuguese student organisers, three medics, a psychologist and 20 crew — have been warned by their governments that they risk violence if they go ahead.

Jakarta has said it will defend its sovereignty against the mission, which it regards as provocative. One parliamentarian, according to Indonesian press reports, has urged the navy to sink the Lusitania Expresso.

"One of the possible scenarios is that we're going to get shot because the military want to discredit (Indonesia President) Suharto and topple him," said Australian student Joely Sobott, 20.

"If one reflects on the past actions of the Indonesian authorities, there's certainly a possibility we could be arrested, detained, possibly suffer physical abuse and be deported," said John Millard, 26, a Canadian teacher.

"Everybody must be quite clear on that. There is potential for danger and physical injury here," said Millard.

Organisers on Saturday gave participants letters to sign stating that they were aware of the dangers and absolved them from responsibility.

German student Armin Seebass, 22, said participants did not want to die in a foolhardy test of Indonesia's military might but sought to apply international resolutions calling for Indonesia to leave East Timor. Most of the world does not recognise Jakarta's rule.

"There is the danger of demonstrations on shore and another massacre. But the Timorese here say this is something important and good, go ahead and do it," he said.

The mission organised by the Lisbon student group Forum Estudante after the Dili massacre raised just over a million U.S. dollars in donations from the public, unions and firms in Portugal, Australia, South Africa and Macao.

BIG WELCOME FOR PEACE SHIP IN DARWIN

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 8 - The Portuguese "peace boat," heading for Indonesian-ruled East Timor on a protest mission, berthed on Sunday to a tumultuous welcome in the Australian port of Darwin.

The Lusitania Expresso, a 540-tonne converted car ferry, was greeted by a cruise launch laden with Timorese and Portuguese well-wishers as it entered the harbour.

Banners blew in the wind and patchy rain as Portuguese music blared and more than 200 people aboard cheered and cried, while a television helicopter hovered above.

A crowd of more than 500, mostly Timorese, greeted the ferry, children threw white carnations to the crew, and an eight-man Aboriginal troupe performed on the dock.

The Lusitania Expresso ended its 12,000 km (7,560 mile) voyage from Lisbon 11 days behind schedule. It will be berthed until Monday afternoon when it is scheduled to depart for Dili, the East Timor capital.

"I was very emotional, overtaken by hope that that the world will this time solve the issue of East Timor for the better," said Alice Goncalves, a Timorese living in Darwin.

Captain Luis dos Santos, speaking to reporters on the deck of the Lusitania, confirmed that for two days he had been buzzed by low-flying aircraft bearing Indonesian colours, the last time within 150 miles of Darwin.

Organisers of the East Timor peace mission have labelled the flights an attempt to intimidate the 20 crew. According to Portuguese newspaper reports, many are already nervous about the prospect of facing the Indonesian warships now massing on the Timor Sea to meet the peace boat.

But dos Santos played down the possibility of confrontation: "Let's not get carried away with speculation...we don't want to create panic or hysterics."

The Lisbon-based student organisers, galvanised by images of the November massacre, mounted the 1.13 million U.S. dollar mission to test the U.N. resolutions which consider East Timor still a protectorate of Portugal.

PEACE SHIP SAILS FROM DARWIN

UPI, Darwin, March 9 - The Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso ignored renewed warnings of danger and left Darwin late Monday on the last leg of its protest voyage to East Timor.

The Darwin port authority told United Press International the vessel left its berth at 7.15 p.m. on its way to attempt to run the gauntlet past Indonesian warships to reach Dili, the East Timor capital.

But the ship's captain, Luis Santos, said Monday he would put the safety of his passengers first and, if confronted by Indonesian naval ships as was expected, he would make an on-the-spot decision whether to proceed.

"My concern is the people and the safety and the property of the ship," he said.

"And at that time, I will deal with that problem."

In Jakarta, the Indonesian news agency, Antara, Monday quoted authorities as saying that the 58 square-mile remote Atauro island, about 20 miles north of Dili, was being prepared as a quarantine centre to process the ship and its passengers.

Antara said the ship, which is protesting a massacre of pro-independence activists in East Timor, would be escorted to the island and its passengers processed for entry permits. Those without the necessary permits, which none of the passengers on the Lusitania Expresso have applied for, would be deported.

Tiny Atauro island, with a population of 6,000, was a place for exiled prisoners during the four centuries of Portuguese occupation of East Timor.

Indonesia's chief of the East Timor operational command, Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei, said the special task force of six warships deployed around the controversial province remained on high alert to anticipate the ship's arrival.

Indonesia has labelled the voyage as "provocative" and accused organizers of trying to incite further disturbances. It has warned that the ship would not be allowed within 12 nautical miles of Indonesian territory.

In Australia, the leader of the federal opposition, John Hewson, and the Northern Territory Chief Minister Marshall Perron, Monday joined the Australian goverment in criticizing the voyage.

Perron agreed with Indonesia that the mission was provocative.

"They are clearly after a reaction from the Indonesians that will stop them, and I am sure that will be the case. They are determined to provoke an incident," he said.

Hewson said the Australian government had not been strong enough in its statement condemning the voyage and warning passengers of its potential dangers.

WARSHIPS WAIT

Reuter, Jakarta, Jonathan Thatcher, March 9 - Indonesia has sent more warships to patrol off East Timor and keep away a banned Portuguese "peace boat" expected to try to sail into its waters within the next two days.

The official Antara news agency on Monday quoted a navy spokesman in East Timor as saying the navy had now deployed six warships in the Wetar Straits which lead to the capital Dili.

Indonesia has banned the ship from its waters, saying its mission is provocative. It has also barred foreign media from East Timor for the first time for three years.

"This task force won't have any problem whatsoever in its particular mission," Antara quoted the spokesman as saying.

Among the six ships are a frigate and a destroyer, Antara said.

Earlier reports said another frigate was also off East Timor.

In case the ship does get through, Indonesian authorities have set up an immigration centre in Atauro Island, 20 miles off Dili. A local official said villagers had set up camps for the ship's passengers before they were deported.

BON VOYAGE, LUCY

Australian Broadcasting Corp. TV News March 9, 1992. Darwin. Christopher O'Hearn

The farewells at Darwin Wharf are probably the last friendly signs those on board the Lucitania Expresso will see for some time.

It plans to visit the capital of East Timor, Dili, and lay a wreath at the site of November's massacre in the Santa Cruz cemetery.

In reality, the ship will be confronted long before it reaches East Timor, by 9 frigates forming a naval blockade.

While Jakarta has condemned the mission as provocative, organizers have challenged Indonesia to let the ship land.

[Antonio Ravara - Spokesman] "... why this unarmed boat will be stopped by such a force ... if anything happens to us, you know in this moment who will be responsible..."

On board are 60 media representatives and more than 70 students and peace activists. One of the passengers is former commando, Jack Boardman, who reminded Australians of the courage of East Timorese who fought against Japan in World War Two.

[Jack Boardman - War Veteran] "And we owe them a debt we can never repay. They lost 40,000 casualties, we lost 30,000, during the war."

Organizers have denied reports that a number of participants have pulled out of the mission for lack of faith in the captain. They say a small number of people have withdrawn because of work or study commitments.

The ship is expected to reach Indonesian waters on Wednesday morning.

MORE FROM RADIO AUSTRALIA

Radio Australia (Australian Broadcasting Corporation's short wave service.) 9 Mar. 11:00 UT (Read by studio announcer in Melbourne)

In Lisbon, Portugese President Mario Soares warned that if anything went wrong with the mission, his country would take diplomatic and political steps to express solidarity with the protesters.

...

Australia's Federal Opposition says the Government should have issued a stronger warning to those planning to travel aboard the Lucitania Expresso to East Timor. The Federal Opposition Leader, John Hewson said he understands the motives of the peace activists on board the ship, but they shouldn't inflame the situation in East Timor.

[John Hewson]

"We thought they gave a fairly lukewarm statement of the dangers, but er, you know, we're sure the Indonesians will respect international maritime laws, but er, you know it's, it's er,, look, quite frankly, in simple terms the last thing we want right now is for that area to be closed out. We really don't want, er, East Timor to be closed down and, er, not to get access, not to be able to monitor developments."

"IF NOT TODAY, TOMORROW"

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 9 - A Portuguese "peace boat" with students and activists aboard set sail from the north Australian port of Darwin on Monday for East Timor, with an Indonesian navy flotilla determined to block it.

The 540-tonne converted car ferry Lusitania Expresso left in driving rain as some 140 Timorese supporters sang freedom songs and shouted independence slogans in Portuguese.

Many wore white T-shirts emblazoned "East Timor Peace Mission" in Portuguese as they crowded passageways and stood on lifeboats to wave farewell.

"I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that, if not today then tomorrow, the East Timorese will succeed in their fight for independence and self-determination," Indian human rights leader Shambhu Chopra told a news conference before departure.

Organisers say they will adhere to international maritime law and halt if challenged by Indonesia.

"My main concern is the safety of the people on board of this ship," Captain Luis dos Santos told reporters. "At the time, I will act accordingly to fulfil my responsibilities."

Asked whether he would try to run an Indonesian blockade, dos Santos said: "Probably not. When it's brute force against me, and the ship is civilian and I have no arms, I have no choice but to turn around."

Some 15 passengers quit the protest voyage before the ship sailed, citing job and study demands.

"Some people had to go because of exams, because of their jobs," Belgian medical student Jean-Bertrand Christaensen, 24, said as he prepared to go home.

"It was hard. I was very eager to go on board," he said, waving to his friends from the wharf.

Among the 50 journalists aboard was correspondent Dewi Anggraeni Fraser of Indonesia's Tempo weekly news magazine.

Asked about statements from Jakarta that any Indonesian journalist aboard the ferry would be considered a traitor, Anggraeni Fraser said she felt uneasy but that her editors had cleared her coverage of the mission.

"It feels a bit scary," she said. "I can't see why I shouldn't go. I don't believe the Indonesian government is a primitive government that cannot see the difference between covering this in a professional capacity and participating."

After some delay, the ferry slid away with a blast of its horn just after sunset. The crowd clapped and waved while some shouted "The battle continues! Viva East Timor!."

Participants from 19 countries have joined the protest voyage.

There are about 50 students and activists, nine of the student Portuguese organisers, 14 "distinguished guests" such as former Portuguese president Antonio Ramalho Eanes, three medics, a psychologist and 20 crew.

Also aboard are 14 television teams and representatives of 11 radio networks, 16 newspapers and magazines, and three news agencies.

The ferry should reach waters claimed by Indonesia within 36 hours.

INDONESIAN PLANES BUZZ LUCY EN ROUTE TO DILI

Press release from the East Timor Peace Mission, 10 March 1992

An Indonesian military aircraft repeatedly buzzed the Lusitania Expresso today in an obvious attempt to intimidate the members of the East Timor Peace Mission.

The ship is on its way to Dili to lay wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery. The cemetery was the scene of the massacre by Indonesian security forces last November 12, which claimed the lives of at least 150 people.

The aircraft was described as a twin-engined Nomad plane, carrying Indonesian markings and the number TNIALP-802.

The aircraft flew in circles over the ship at an extremely low altitude at a position between 130 and 150 miles northwest of Darwin.

The overflight of the Indonesian aircraft is further evidence of Indonesia's hostile stance towards the peace boat, already demonstrated by Jakarta' deployment of 14 warships in the area.

The aircraft was first sighted at 12:40 local time, 130 nautical miles from the Australian coast.

The aircraft returned at 3:40 pm and continued to shadow the vessel at close quarters.

Two other aircraft subsequently joined the overflight and continued harassment of the ship.

The 130 passengers on board remained calm and determined in the face of this response of Indonesia to the peaceful intentions of the mission.

The Peace Mission continues on its way despite these ominous actions and appeals to the international community to keep a close eye on the developing situation.

DAVID JENKINS ON LUCY

Radio Australia's International Report 10 March 92 11:00 UT

Studio Announcer: Mark Boling, on board the Lucitania Expresso. ...

PT: Let's shift to the Lucitania Expresso. Is Indonesia particularly concerned about the fact that this ship is sailing from Australian waters?

DJ: I think they're concerned about the ship's arrival because it's a potential embarrassment to them and they don't want people to highlight the difficulties they're having in East Timor.

PT: So what are they going to do about it, do you believe?

DJ: Well they seem to have half their navy waiting to greet it and I dare say they'll try and operate in close proximity to the ship and persuade the captain to turn around.

PT: What sort of factors would be influencing the minds of Indonesia's leaders in determining how to handle this situation?

DJ: I think the main one is loss of face. If they had chosen to invite the Portugese ship to visit Indonesia then they could have perhaps contained some of the international attention and channelled it, but this way it's challenging them and putting them in a very invidious position.

PT: It's a loss of face either way, isn't it?

DJ: I think it is — it's a very difficult thing for them to handle.

PT: So if they don't accept it, and drive the ship back, that will be an international incident of some sort too.

DJ: It will, and it will be widely publicised, and I don't think they can tow the ship away — I think the ship's probably larger than any of the frigates they have lined up to meet it. But I imagine they'll cruise close to it, try and head it off, if necessary fire a token shot across its bows, and the captain will then withdraw.

PT: Who would be making the decision in Indonesia — at what level?

DJ: I think it would be made at the highest level of the military, by the military and by the president. So I imagine the defence minister, General Murdani and the co-ordinating minister for political affairs, Admiral Sudomo, the most senior navy man in the government would also be closely involved in the decision.

PT: What do you expect the impact to be of the trials that are starting this week in East Timor?

DJ: I think it's unfortunate that there's been so much emphasis in Indonesia on the Timorese demonstrators, and so little attention paid until very recently to those in the army who actually fired the shots.

By the same token, I think it's unlikely that any of these people are ever going to get the death sentence. I think they'll be dealt with very harshly by the Indonesians, but I don't think they're going to be sentenced to death.

ON BOARD THE LUCY

Radio Australia's International Report
10/3/92 11:00 UT

RADIO AUSTRALIA ON THE BOAT, THE LEAK AND THE TRIALS

Studio Announcer: Tension is building off the northern coast of Australia this morning as the protest ship Lucitania Expresso steams toward East Timor. The ship left Darwin last night with students and peace activists among the passengers determined to go ahead with the mission to lay wreaths in Dili's Santa Cruz Cemetery, scene of last November's massacre.

Indonesia has sternly warned the ship that it won't be allowed to enter Indonesian territorial waters and has stationed nine navy frigates off East Timor.

Mark Boling reports from on board the Lucitania Expresso as it heads for a likely confrontation with Indonesian authorities:

Mark Boling:

Students (were) in high spirits last night — their first on the voyage from Darwin. From now on their ship is chartering a hazardous course (sic). Confrontation with the Indonesian navy could begin as early as first light tomorrow. By that time, on its present course and speed the ship will reach Indonesian territorial waters where nine navy frigates are understood to be stationed and waiting.

The mission organizers plan to press ahead until challenged by the Indonesian military. That could happen soon after dawn, or it could mean the Lucitania Expresso heads on into Indonesian waters. Either way the Portugese organizers on board, with the backing of Australian students and activists, say Indonesia has no legitimate claim over the waters surrounding East Timor, or to the province itself.

But that is not the students' main reason for wanting to press ahead to reach Dili. Their aim is to highlight alleged human rights abuses in East Timor and, of course, the presence of the Indonesian military in the province. With a large international media contingent aboard, they're managing to highlight those points very well.

The Lucitania Expresso is not equipped for any chase with Indonesia on the high seas — it's a tourist boat which has spent most of its working life carrying passengers and their cars between Portugal and the African west coast.

Here in the Timor Sea it's ill-equipped. The main cabin leaks, the air conditioning hardly works, and there's nowhere for most of the passengers to sleep but on the floor.

Just how long the voyage will continue depends on the Portuguese captain. He'll decide what happens when the ship enters the disputed Indonesian waters around East Timor and the navy moves in. He says he'll make an on-the-spot decision what to do next, but he insists he won't be risking the lives of the passengers.

LUCY AT SEA

Reuter, alongside the Lusitania Expresso, Timor Sea, Wilson da Silva, March 10 – Students and activists aboard a Portuguese peace boat sailing toward East Timor in defiance of Indonesia's rule there were in high spirits on Tuesday when they paused to pick up a late-arriving reporter.

The 150 activists and reporters on the Lusitania Expresso, a 540-tonne converted car ferry, had slept little after the first 12 hours of their mission to lay flowers at the Santa Cruz cemetery in East Timor's capital, Dili, where Indonesian troops shot dead between 50 and 180 civilians last November.

The Timor Sea was smooth at dawn, but large storm clouds hung to the north where a flotilla of Indonesian navy ships was waiting.

The Lusitanio Expresso slowed to rendezvous with the 16-tonne tri-hull Gramps, 124 miles northwest of Darwin.

An Australian television journalist left behind in the northern city of Darwin because he lacked a valid passport climbed a rope ladder as passengers cheered and waved.

The skipper of the Portuguese ship, Luis dos Santos, was playing it safe. Although his ship was within radio range, and the Gramps was expected, he kept radio silence for two hours before responding to calls to arrange the rendezvous.

He has not filed a sailing plan with Australian authorities in Darwin — a normal safety precaution.

"From here on they face the blockade alone," mission organiser Paulo Veiga said as the Gramps pulled away.

At its current speed and course, the Lusitania Expresso would cross into what Indonesia claims as its territorial waters just after dawn on Wednesday.

Jakarta has said it is determined to stop the mission, and eight naval vessels were said to be in position to stop it.

The activists were running through tactics to deal with the blockade — tactics they said would be within international and maritime laws.

The international composition of the mission, which includes 14 international observers and 50 journalists, seeks to focus world attention on the 16-year impasse over East Timor.

Captain dos Santos has said he regards the voyage as a normal charter.

"Not a bad first night," passenger Shirley Shackleton shouted out from a doorway where she stood with dos Santos.

Shackleton joined the mission because her husband was killed by Indonesian troops in the 1975 invasion.

She said she could not forget that the Australian government had quietly forgotten his death and those of four of his colleagues during the invasion.

LUCY BUZZED AGAIN

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 10 – Military planes with Indonesian markings buzzed the Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso on Tuesday as it steamed through the Timor Sea towards a naval blockade of Indonesian warships off East Timor.

Tension aboard rose when the first plane, described by organisers as a twin-engined Nomad, circled the vessel at an altitude of about 90 feet, passengers said via a radio link with the north Australian port of Darwin.

The plane, which bore Indonesian colours and the markings TNIALP-802, returned three hours and appeared on the ship's radar flying in huge circles around the vessel, they said.

The 150 activists and reporters aboard the Lusitania Expresso sweltered in tropical humidity as they watched the plane fly past.

The encounters occurred at the half-way point on the voyage.

The Lusitania Expresso, now heading into a tropical storm, was expected to meet the Indonesian blockade in the early hours of Wednesday local time, or around 1700 GMT on Tuesday.

"There is no fear aboard," psychiatrist Margarida Neto said over the radio link from the ferry.

"But I would think that tonight very few people will get any sleep. These are people committed to what they are doing, so they are calm," she said.

Diplomats in Jakarta said at least eight naval vessels were in position off East Timor to stop the Lusitania Expresso.

One naval officer said marine police would reinforce the flotilla arrayed across the Wetar Straits.

"It is a show of force far exceeding what is needed to stop an unarmed ship," said a naval attache.

AP, Darwin, Paul Alexander, March 10 – Three small aircraft bearing the Indonesia colors reportedly flew over the ship, and a reporter aboard said the vessel was being trailed by two Indonesian frigates.

About 40 reporters are on the ship. One journalist, Ian Hyslop, said on Cable News Network that he had been told two Indonesian frigates began shadowing the Lusitania Expresso on Tuesday night.

Students aboard the ship said three small aircraft bearing the Indonesian colors flew low over the ferry earlier Tuesday.

Five of the students aboard the ship are Americans.

East Timor's military commander, Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei, has said neither the ship nor its passengers would pass through the naval blockade. But he told a newspaper his forces would only use force as a last resort.

"We will not use violence," he was quoted as saying. "If they endanger ABRI (the armed forces) and shoot, we will shoot back. If they shoot once, we will shoot twice."

The protesters have said there are no weapons aboard the ship.

UPI, Darwin, March 10 – "We have just been buzzed by two Indonesian navy aircraft and that is the second time in the last two hours that navy aircraft have flown overhead," said the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Mark Bowling, reporting from the ship by satellite telephone.

"On the first occasion, a Nomad aircraft clearly marked with an Indonesian flag, flew low over the vessel and made four passes," he said.

"Then a short time ago, two navy aircraft made a second pass, a large circle around the ship and disappeared over the horizon."

Bowling said the planes were going as low as about 160 feet, flying on either side of the ship.

He said the ship was already inside the 200-mile off-shore Indonesian economic zone, the area in which it controls fishing. The passengers were warned by the ship captain, Luis Dos Santos, that "anything can happen" as the vessel approaches the 12-mile off-shore Indonesian territorial sea, which authorities in Jakarta have declared a "no go" zone for the Lusitania Expresso.

Bowling described the mood aboard as pensive and tense, in contrast to the boisterous optimism of the previous night.

"Everyone is standing on the deck with binoculars and cameras looking for any sight of further planes, and the mood can only be described as very tense and pensive," he said.

The captain had carried out emergency drill during the day in case the ship had to be abandoned, he said.

Indonesian armed forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Nurhadi Purwosaputro in Jakarta blamed the captain of Lusitania Expresso as the person most responsible with the fate of all people aboard the ship.

SHADOWING LUCY

Reuter, Lisbon, March 10 – An Indonesian frigate has begun shadowing a Portuguese "peace boat" as it sails towards East Timor from Australia.

The news agency Lusa quoted reporters on board the Lusitania Expresso as saying a warship was seen about two miles away steaming on a parallel course.

Lisbon's TSF radio station identified the warship as an Indonesian frigate.

Reporters on board say the vessel is expected to reach the 12-mile limit of East Timor's territorial waters at dawn on Wednesday (2130 GMT Tuesday).

The yellow and blue painted ship which left Darwin on Monday was earlier buzzed several times by Indonesian military surveillance planes.

'MOMENTS OF TRUTH' AT DAWN

UPI, Darwin, March 10 – The Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso, with student activists from 23 countries and journalists, steamed Tuesday toward East Timor and an inevitable confrontation with the Indonesian navy.

The population in Dili, site of a masscre of pro-independence marchers last year that inspired the sending of the "peace ship," is calm, although it has been bombarbaded with news about the arrival of the protestors, according to the Jakarta Post.

Authorities in East Timor were apparently tightening security, with soldiers patrolling the main streets and area around the port, according to news reports in Jakarta.

The protestors, in their first night at sea, following departure from Darwin, were heard singing loudly as Australian Broadcasting Corporation reporter Mark Bowling described them in high spirits.

ADMIRAL'S CHALLENGE: "FIND ANY WAY IN"

Reuter, Jakarta, Moses Manoharan, March 10 – An Indonesian admiral challenged a Portuguese "peace boat" heading for East Timor on Tuesday to try to break through a formidable naval cordon around the territory.

"Let's see if they can find any way in," Eastern Fleet commander Tanto Kuswanto said in the East Timor capital of Dili on Monday, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported.

Diplomats said at least eight naval vessels were in position near East Timor to stop the Lusitania Expresso.

Another naval officer said marine police would reinforce the flotilla arrayed across the Wetar Straits.

The diplomats said the ships included at least two Dutch-made frigates with modern surveillance equipment, a locally-made patrol boat and a landing craft.

A naval attache said the tension would be quickly reduced if the ship heeded the challenge of the naval vessels and turned away when asked if it had permission to enter Indonesian waters.

"If it didn't, a warning shot is usually fired across the bows of the ship," he said, adding that the next shot could be directly at the vessel.

The organisers of the "peace boat" say they will abide by international maritime law and halt if challenged.

Ship captain Luis dos Santos said his main concern was the safety of his passengers.

Asked whether he would try to run the blockade, dos Santos said: "Probably not. When it's brute force against me and the ship is civilian and I have no arms, I have no choice but to turn around."

Indonesia has called the mission provocative, banned the ship from its waters and barred foreign media from East Timor.

In case the ship does get through, authorities have set up an immigration centre in Atauro Island, 20 miles off Dili. A local official said villagers had set up camps for the ship's passengers before they are deported.

TSF correspondent Manuel Acasio on board the Lusitania Expresso said that if the ship were confronted by Indonesian naval vessels it would probably not try to force its way past them, but neither would it obey orders to turn around immediately.

Instead, the ship would try to remain on station for several hours to draw international attention to the fact that Indonesia was blocking its access to the territory, he said.

Acasio said the passengers and crew had been told not to shout or make any provocative gestures if the Lusitania Expresso was intercepted by an Indonesian warship.

SYAFEI WARNS OF RETALIATION

Reuter, Jakarta, Jonathan Thatcher, March 10 - An Indonesian general warned of bloody retaliation if anyone on a Portuguese "peace boat" now sailing to East Timor attacked his soldiers but said he would not start the violence.

"We are not going to use force. (But) if they endanger soldiers and shoot we will shoot them back," Brigadier-General Theo Syafei told the Indonesian weekly Editor, published on Tuesday.

Syafei, newly-appointed to the East Timor command, said: "If the November 12 incident happens again during my command, the victims might be more." He added however that the risk of violence was small.

Diplomats say Syafei has clamped down hard on the former Portuguese colony since taking over. One recent visitor said the capital was in a state of siege.

While many Indonesians expressed shock over the November massacre, there has been general contempt for the voyage of the Lusitania Expresso which the government has called provocative.

"Indonesia should take firm action against the Portuguese ship," the daily *Merdeka* said in an editorial on Tuesday.

SYAFEI 'PREPARED' FOR PEACE BOAT (EDITOR)

Remark: Translation from Editor, March 14, interview with East Timor Operations Execution Commander (Pangkolakops) Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei on preparations for the Lusitania Expresso. Original Indonesian supplied to SEASIA-L by Loren Ryter.

Loren's Comment: It is clear that the passengers would be treated as if they were armed and dangerous, which they were not. It also seems like Syafei thought the boat would try to "sneak" into East Timor, and that they had to be "detected." Also, the interviewer's bias (the peace ship must be dealt with and ABRI is the one to do it) is very clear by the nature of the questions.

Q: As for ABRI units, we hear that the Eastern Region Fleet is prepared at the 12 mile baseline. And also the Navy Station Command (air) and Army Special Task Force on the beach and on land (Sector C)? [Trans. - Sector C is Dili.]

A: Right. Except for places already under detection, we've also prepared helicopter units. So we can coordinate with and contact the Navy. By using high-mobility helicopters, wherever they are we will definitely detect them. How many helicopters? Four. We feel four helicopters are adequate to monitor them.

Q: If they slip through onto land, then it's the job of Sector C?

A: Yes. Sector C will confront them around Dili.

Q: If they face our troops, will our response be violence?

A: No. We will split them up. Those from Europe, and those from Portugal. And after that they will be handled by immigration personnel. But if they resist, we will treat them as criminals. The police and prosecutors will interrogate them. And if they resist even more strongly, we will treat them as rebels.

Q: What if they resist violently?

A: We will not use violence. If they endanger ABRI [Trans. - Indonesian Armed Forces] and shoot, we will return fire. I have never said they may be shot. But if ABRI is endangered, I have already issued the order to shoot. First of all, occasional shooting on the smallest scale. *[This is the hardest sentence to translate in the interview and might be rendered quite differently out of context or making an assumption of nefarious intent. Syafei's remark, as Editor wrote it, was, "Tembak pada kesempatan paling kecil, paling pertama."]*

Q: What would indicate ABRI is endangered?

A: If they fire once, we will fire twice in return. So I say, if something occurs again under my leadership like the November 12 incident, maybe the casualties will be greater.

ADDENDUM MAR 21, 1992 BY JOHN MACDOUGALL

My personal copy of Editor's *March 14 issue arrived a few minutes ago. Just to make things perfectly clear, the Indonesian excerpt provided to SEASIA-L by another poster — and my translation of it — represented about 8 column inches of an 18 column inch story. Some of* Editor's *introductory remarks and further comments by Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei are also worth reporting. My translation of the full article will appear in Indonesia News Service No. 320. Dadi Rustandi Sumaatmadja did the interview for Editor. The article editor cited is Djoenady Siswo Pratikno. Both work in Editor's Jakarta coverage division.*

John A. MacDougall

U.N. CHIEF URGES RESTRAINT

Reuter, United Nations, March 10 - As Indonesian warships awaited a controversial "peace ship" sailing towards East Timor, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali on Tuesday urged all sides to exercise restraint.

"He hopes that no violent incident will occur and that good judgment and maximum restraint will be displayed by all concerned," his spokesman Francois Giuliani said.

Giuliani said the secretary-general had received an appeal from students on the Portuguese ship, assuring him of the peaceful nature of their mission.

At the same time senior officials to the secretary-general spoke to the ambassadors of Indonesia and Portugal to draw attention "to the dangerous possibilities," a U.N. source said.

Undersecretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, in charge of political affairs, spoke to Indonesia's ambassador on Friday, presumably to warn against any violent action by Indonesian vessels against the ship, diplomats said.

His deputy, Assistant Secretary-General Sctirios Mousouris carried a further message on Tuesday to both ambassadors.

JAPAN EVINCES 'CONCERN'

Reuter, Tokyo, March 10 - Japan said on Tuesday that a Portuguese "peace boat" sailing towards East Timor in defiance of Indonesia could cause turmoil.

"The Japanese government is very anxious to see that the Lusitania Expresso's attempt to visit East Timor will not cause unnecessary turmoil," a foreign ministry spokesman told reporters.

"If this voyage leads to undesirable consequences, it will not be considered constructive for a solution of the problem," the foreign ministry spokesman said.

ASEAN CRITICIZES LUCY

DPA, Kuala Lumpur, March 11 - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) diplomats Wednesday warned the Portuguese "peace boat" Lustania Expresso not to continue with its "provocative voyage" to the Indonesian island of East Timor.

"The move by the activists is outright provocative and they should heed Indonesia's warning at once. No foreign vessel should challenge any nation which warns it from entering its territorial waters. ASEAN is disturbed by current developments and urges the peace boat which is now an enemy to turn back at once," said a

Malaysian diplomat who asked to remain anonymous.

A Thai diplomat said "any disturbance of the peaceful waters of any ASEAN nation is a direct challenge to ASEAN as a whole."

LUSITANIA SHADOWED BY WARSHIP

Press release issued in Darwin on 11 March 1992 by the East Timor Peace Mission:

The Peace Boat Lusitania Expresso is being shadowed closely tonight by an Indonesian warship.

The ship, identified as an Indonesian frigate, was first sighted at a distance of 5 miles at 11.20 pm local time about 81 nautical miles south of East Timor. At 11.30 pm the warship steered onto a parallel course and began to close.

The Lusitania Expresso is on a peace mission to Dili in East Timor in order to lay wreaths at the site of the 12 November massacre in which at least 150 peaceful protestors were killed by Indonesian security forces.

The frigate is now shadowing the Peace Mission from a position 1 nautical mile to starboard and following on a parallel course.

The atmosphere aboard the Lusitania Expresso remains calm and the mission is continuing as planned despite this provocative action outside Indonesian territorial waters.

PEACE BOAT FORCED TO TURN AROUND, WAIT

Press Release from the East Timor Peace Mission Darwin, 11 March 1992 10:30 am local time.

The Peace Boat Lusitania Expresso has been forced to about turn by the Indonesian Navy whilst still in international waters. The Lusitania Expresso was on a Peace Mission to Dili in East Timor in order to lay wreaths at the site of the November 12 massacre in which at least 150 peaceful protestors were killed by Indonesian security forces.

The Peace Boat, which has been shadowed by an Indonesian frigate since 11:30 pm last night, local time, encountered two more warships south of the East Timorese 12-mile limit. At 7:50 am local time, the first direct communication with an Indonesian warship occurred by radio, 14 miles from the East Timorese coast.

A warning was issued from the bridge of the Indonesian frigate, while two helicopters hovered directly overhead. The Peace Boat was told: "I tell you directly to leave this area. You are now in Indonesian territory. Turn back immediately or force will be used."

The Indonesian Commander stated strongly that there would be no discussion on the matter, despite attempts by Rui Marques, the Mission's Director, to recontact the warship. The Lusitania Expresso had no choice but to comply with this illegal threat of force. An emotional wreath laying ceremony was held on deck and a short prayer service conducted before the boat turned to its port side and proceeded slowly southwards, shadowed by the Indonesian forces.

The Peace Boat has now stopped 14 miles south of the 12-mile limit, where it is intended to hold a press conference.

The Peace Mission is currently surrounded by three frigates and one helicopter.

The use of three fully-armed warships supported by aircraft to stop a civilian ferry carrying unarmed students illustrates once again to the world that wherever peaceful protest arises against Indonesian authority, military force will be used.

Overshadowing this is the fact that the East Timorese continue to live in a state of terror under the Indonesian occupying forces.

LUCY HALTS

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 11 – A Portuguese "peace boat" bound for Indonesian-ruled East Timor to protest against a massacre of civilians was drifting in international waters on Wednesday after being turned back by Indonesian warships.

The converted car ferry Lusitania Expresso, carrying 130 students and peace activists, was drifting 28 nautical miles south of East Timor.

Protest organisers in Darwin, in contact with the ferry, said Captain Luis dos Santos told the Indonesians his engines were overheating and he would hold his position until they had cooled.

"His engines are overheating and therefore he will not be able to proceed," said merchant marine captain Jose Manuel Cabral, one of the organisers.

He said the warships, which earlier threatened to use force unless the boat reversed course, appeared to have accepted dos Santos' explanation and were holding off within sight of the Lusitania Expresso.

Cabral said the ferry, surrounded by three Indonesian warships and being overflown by a navy helicopter and a military plane, had no choice but to return to Darwin.

Dos Santos told the Indonesian frigates the ferry's cooling system could not cope with the warm waters of the Indian Ocean but he hoped it could get under way quickly.

Rui Marques, chief organiser of the peace mission, said the breakdown might give the international community more time to condemn Indonesia's action before the ship continued its voyage back to Darwin.

"There has been a happy coincidence between technical and diplomatic matters," Marques told Portuguese radio aboard the Lusitania Expresso.

"I tell you directly to leave this area," one frigate earlier told the Lusitania Expresso in radio communications transmitted from the ferry to the peace mission's news room in Darwin via satellite telephone.

"You are now in Indonesian territoriality," the ship said, while two Indonesian naval helicopters hovered overhead.

Dos Santos complied with the order to turn back. Marques, also on the bridge, tried to negotiate with the Indonesians who did not respond.

In a live report from the ferry, a Portuguese Radio correspondent said the captain of the Indonesian frigate commanding operations twice threatened to use force unless the Lusitania Expresso reversed course.

He quoted the captain as saying: "We are warning you that if you do not reverse course we have the necessary means to use force against your ship."

PORTUGAL WATCHES

Reuter, Lisbon, March 10 – "I think everything is well, we are all confident," Eanes told Portuguese television before the order to stop came. The frigates had closed into within 500 metres of the ferry.

The passengers were under instructions to make no gestures or movements which could be interpreted as a provocation.

Portugal's parliament passed a motion on Tuesday calling on the international community to "remember that Indonesia has no legitimate jurisdiction over territorial waters of East Timor."

Jakarta's rule in East Timor, which it invaded in 1975 after the Portuguese colonial administration withdrew, is not recognised by the United Nations.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had appealed to Jakarta to show "good sense" in its reaction to the Portuguese ferry. He said he was aware of the peaceful nature of its mission, Lusa reported.

LUCY RETREATS

AP, Darwin, Paul Alexander, March 11 – An Indonesian warship today blocked an international protest ship from landing in East Timor, forcing those aboard to toss wreaths for slain pro-independence demonstrators into the sea and turn away.

Mission organizers still claimed success. They said they had drawn the world's attention to East Timor, which they allege is the focus of a deliberate Indonesian program to wipe out the Timorese culture.

Mission organizers claimed they had a right to travel to East Timor because the United Nations never has recognized Indonesia's occupation.

The students, from nearly 20 countries, included five Americans — three from Brown University and two from the University of California at Berkeley.

They watched nervously as two Indonesian frigates tailed them for several hours as they sailed toward East Timor's 12-mile territorial limit. Just before the limit, the ferry made radio contact with a third frigate, which blocked the route and ordered the protesters to turn around.

Mission spokesman Peter Monet said from Darwin, where organizers maintained phone contact with the ferry, that the Indonesians refused any discussions.

The vessel was expected to return to Darwin, about 400 miles away, by late Thursday.

LUCY HOUNDED

UPI, Darwin, March 11 – The Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso retreated from Indonesian territorial waters Wednesday, warned off by Indonesian navy frigates with crews manning machine guns.

The captain of the Lusitania Expresso, Luis Dos Santos, had complied immediately with the order to go back and late Wednesday the ship was returning to Australia at full speed.

In Jakarta, Indonesian authorities said Wednesday navy ships would continue shadowing the Lusitania Expresso until it finally reached Australia's port of Darwin.

The afternoon daily Suara Pembaruan quoted East Indonesia's naval commander Tanto Kuswanto as saying the special task force of the armed forces would remain in East Timor until the ship had returned to Portugal.

In his report from the ship, Mark Bowing of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation said when the "Lusitania Expresso was heading very close, in fact on the edge of Indonesian territorial waters early this morning, it was flanked by three Indonesian frigates and a radio message came from the commander of those frigates to turn around immediately."

"We could see the crews on the frigates manning machine guns.

"That warning was heeded by the captain of the Lusitania Expresso and that's exactly what he did.

Bowling said the ships then flanked them for about three hours to ensure they were heading in the right direction.

Asked whether there was any doubt about the fact that the ship was returning to Darwin he replied: "Undoubtedly that's the case. Any fears that we might have been making a second attempt to head for Dili at this stage that is certainly not on."

Bowling said that once the ship had left Indonesian waters there was a very emotional service during which wreaths were thrown into the sea to honor those killed in last November's Dili massacre.

PORTUGAL CONDEMNS

Reuter, Lisbon, Stephen Brown, March 11 – Lisbon condemned Indonesia on Wednesday for sending warships to turn back a Portuguese "peace boat" bound for the former colony of East Timor to protest at a massacre of civilians by troops last November.

"The international community must condemn Indonesia's attitude for using force to block the passage of a peaceful ship carrying unarmed civilians of various nationalities," a foreign ministry statement said.

Lisbon expressed its "indignation and concern" at Jakarta's action.

The statement said that, since the United Nations does not recognise Jakarta's rule and the territory is still officially under Portuguese administration, the Indonesian navy's action was "illegitimate according to international law."

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, after the Portuguese colonial administration withdrew, and annexed it a year later.

The Portuguese government statement said the peace mission "just wanted to show solidarity with the victims of the massacre which the Indonesian authorities say they lament."

The government said it had nothing do with the organisation of the mission but "appreciated its generosity and its moral importance" and its efforts to bring attention to the human rights situation in East Timor.

Portuguese President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva met the organisers of the voyage, headed by the student magazine Forum Estudante, before they left for Darwin.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro said in Brussels on Tuesday the voyage was an "extraordinarily generous and courageous decision."

Lisbon was following events closely and had made unspecified preparations "for some of the possible outcomes," he said.

PORTUGAL HAILS LUCY

Reuter, Lisbon, Robert Powell, March 11 – Portugal watched with regret on Wednesday as Indonesian warships turned a privately-sponsored "peace ship" away from its former colony East Timor, but the government and media agreed the gesture had been worthwhile.

"Dictatorships are afraid of flowers and of unarmed and peaceful young people when they want to protest," President Mario Soares told Lisbon's TSF radio station.

"Flowers against cannons," said a front-page headline in the Lisbon daily Diario de Noticias, echoing the same sentiment.

"Politically it was an excellent means of pressure against the Indonesian dictatorship. Diplomatically it upset the usual actors in set piece situations who were this time obliged to follow a script with different rules," the Lisbon daily Publico said in an editorial.

Portugal continues to press diplomatically for East Timor's right to self-determination.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro told reporters in Brussels on Wednesday that the organisers of the "peace ship," should be congratulated for their initiative."

"We should all be grateful for their courage and determination," he said.

The Lusitania Expresso voyage, which cost more than a million dollars, was the brainchild of Rui Marques, the editor of an obscure student magazine called Forum Estudante.

The government has repeated insistently that it was a private venture without official backing, but government and opposition leaders have openly expressed their sympathy and moral support for it.

The only politician to actually take part in the voyage was former president Antonio Ramalho Eanes, who served as Portugal's first freely-elected head of state after the 1974 revolution from 1976 to 1986.

INDONESIA ACCUSES PORTUGAL

Reuter, London, March 11 – The Indonesian army hinted on Wednesday that Lisbon masterminded a mission by a "peace boat" to Portugal's former colony of East Timor to protest against a massacre of civilians.

An Indonesian army spokesman said statements by Lisbon after Jakarta sent warships on Wednesday to turn back the Lusitania Expresso car ferry showed who was responsible for arranging the voyage by 120 student activists, personalities and journalists.

"It was now obvious who had masterminded the ship's activities, and this could be seen from the comments made by high-ranking Portuguese officials in Lisbon soon after the mission had failed," the Indonesian news agency Antara, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted the spokesman as telling a news conference.

The spokesman, Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro, said that the incident itself was a minor issue but the army regarded it seriously because it involved national sovereignty, the agency said.

VIEWS FROM LUCY

Reuter, Darwin, Wilson da Silva, March 11 – Human rights activists turned away from East Timor by Indonesian warships on the high seas on Wednesday said their voyage had focused the eyes of the world on the former Portuguese colony.

Despite stark images of students confronted by warships, international reaction to the incident appeared muted. Mission officials, however, claimed success.

"It has reminded everyone that East Timor is not part of Indonesia, that the United Nations says so. And shows them that Indonesia can illegally and without just cause expel a peaceful vessel from waters which do not belong to it," said mission adviser Captain Jose Manuel Cabral.

"They in fact had no right to treat the Lusitania Expresso in the way they did in international waters, just as they have no right to occupy East Timor as they do," he said.

Australia said it was happy with the way Jakarta dealt with the ship.

Organisers said they were not surprised by the mild reaction to the incident. The mission was merely the first step in an international campaign to force Indonesia to halt human rights abuse and leave East Timor, they said.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," said Canadian student Peter Monet.

The mission caught the attention of the world, at least momentarily. There were 14 television groups represented on board, 11 radio networks, and 16 newspapers and magazines.

The organisers, the Lisbon-based student group Forum Estudante, raised 1.13 million U.S. dollars to fund the venture, mostly from unions, businesses and private sources in Portugal, Australia and countries with big Portuguese emigre populations.

PEACE SHIP TURNED BACK BY INDONESIAN NAVY

Sydney, mar 11 (IPS) — a Portuguese peace ship's protest journey to East Timor has come to an abrupt end. the ship is now headed back to Darwin in Northern Australia after being ordered by the Indonesian navy early Wednesday to leave Indonesian waters immediately.

An Australian ABC Radio reporter on board the 'Lusitania Expresso' said the ship had been shadowed by two frigates of the Indonesian navy all night since the ship left Darwin tuesday.

Mark Bolling, the ABC radio reporter, said that as the ship came close to the frigates, he could see crews of the two Indonesian ships manning machine guns.

The orders came at dawn Wednesday when an Indonesian navy commander radioed the ship to withdraw from Indonesian waters immediately. the 'Lusitania' captain acknowledged the call and turned back to port.

Peace protesters aboard the ship have thrown wreaths to the sea in remembrance of the victims of the Dili massacre. many of them were reported to be emotionally overcome by the experience.

The acting Australian foreign minister John Kerin has expressed relief that the protest ship has been turned back.

"While the ship was in Darwin, officials of the department of foreign affairs spoke to both the captain and the owners of the ship and they certainly told us that this will happen. they will not risk the ship, the crew or the passengers," Kerin said in a press statement Wednesday.

Rob Wesley Smith, a spokesman for the protest organisers, said: "the voyage has established the illegal nature of their (Indonesia's) regime because the area the ship was turned back from is not recognised by the world community, except by a handful of governments like Australia, as belonging to Indonesia. it's international waters or Portuguese-controlled waters."

Smith said most people taking part in the protest believe their objective was accomplished. the ship's 120 passengers, which included human rights activists, students and journalists, intended to lay flowers in the cemetery in Dili where Indonesian soldiers shot and killed at least 50 Timorese demonstrators last nov. 12.

Sen. Graham Tamblin, state senator of Australia's Northern Territory), told ABC radio wednesday that the whole episode has proved to be "a very costly, fruitless and useless exercise."

"The Portuguese organisers have a guilty conscience and a hidden agenda," said Tamblin. "they are no longer players in the region and they must accept that and butt out. they deserted Timor in 1975 after they exploited it and have left no adequate social structures in place."

THOUGHTS FROM THE LUSITANIA EXPRESSO

(LORNE RIDER)

by Lorne Rider, 11 March 1992

Timor Sea

For those of us aboard the Lusitania Expresso, it has been an astonishing Wednesday morning, but half way around the world it is still Super Tuesday. Anchored just outside the territorial waters of East Timor and surrounded by three Indonesian warships, it's hard to imagine the banter being broadcast over American airwaves right now. Yet I can state with conviction that none of the candidates are putting East Timor high on their foreign policy agenda.

Especially for former CIA director George Bush, who understands fully the embarrassing parallels between Iraq's illegal occupation of Kuwait and Indonesia's illegal annexation of East Timor, any mention of the situation would further puncture his already-deflated "foreign policy president" balloon.

Even for the enlightened Jerry Brown, who has been afforded the luxury of becoming a presidential candidate by his family's flow of Indonesian oil wealth, East Timor (whose oil reserves could make Australia a net exporter for a half-century), is a touchy subject indeed. Only Tom Harkin had kept the genocidal situation in East Timor on the congressional agenda, but in the end, Harkin must have felt that US-sponsored slaughter does not command sufficient American concern to turn it into the cornerstone of his campaign.

Although our video is more dramatic than pictures of a man wearing a gas mask in a tent, I'd be truly surprised if any of it pre-empted Super Tuesday exit poll results. In Portugal the story of a peace boat's face off with the Indonesian navy is a story writ as large as the Gulf War. One might think that images of an unidentified ship suspensefully trailing the Lusitania Expresso throughout the night, followed by pictures of our dawn reception by the force of Indonesian warships, helicopters, and spy planes, might pique the curiosity of network media moghuls. But as we were informed days ago by CBS and NBC: no blood, no story.

It's a sadistic paradox. Sinking a boat full of 120 students and journalists from 21 countries, a scenario which some Indonesian hard-liners publicly advocated, would have guaranteed us a flash of US media attention. But unlike a quarter of a million East Timorese who have died in the past 16 years, we are not martyrs, and none of us ever intended to be.

Despite the prudence the Indonesian navy showed in their restraint from physical attack which would have been recorded by dozens of cameras, the unchallengeable threat of violence was never absent. The captain of the Lusitania Expresso was told seven times to turn back or risk retaliation. At no time did the Indonesian commander allow us to plead the case we had hoped to articulate: international law does not recognize Indonesia's authority over East Timor and we should therefore be allowed to proceed without further molestation. The captain, who had been informed by Reuters in Jakarta last night that the Indonesians unequivocally intended to sink the unarmed peace ship, was not prepared to run the risk of provocation by his persistence.

We were prevented from achieving our objective of laying flowers at the Santa Cruz cemetery in memory of the 180 East Timorese massacred last November. Yet in the context of East Timorese tradition, we were still able to honor those slain. The East Timorese believe that flowers thrown into the sea to pay reverence to the deceased will be received by their spirits on the peak of Mount Ramelau, East Timor's highest mountain. After reciting words of prayer in a dozen languages, we threw wreaths, flowers, and olive branches given to us by the East Timorese communities in Lisbon and Darwin into the sea, all while navy helicopters circled noisily above.

On our voyage home to the United States, we feel contented with the idea that we have set a historic precedent today. For the first time, a group of individuals from many countries have acted independently from their governments to uphold international law as decided by the United Nations. We return with the profound understanding that individuals can succeed, however slightly, in drawing world attention to injustice which our leaders, whose hands are too deep in the coffers, seek to conceal.

EAST TIMOR PEACE BOAT TURNED BACK

From Peace News, (War Resisters International, London) April 1992.

The Portuguese car ferry Lusitania Expresso, which sailed from Lisbon in January en route to East Timor with 150 students and peace activists on board (Peace News March 1992) was forced to turn back after an Indonesian frigate blocked the protest ship's progress near the limit of East Timorese territorial waters.

Despite the failure of the peace boat to reach East Timor — where a delegation hoped to lay wreaths at Santa Cruz cemetery in the capital Dili, where up to 200 died in a police and army massacre on 12 November — organisers claimed success in focusing the world's attention on the East Timor tragedy.

A Portuguese student magazine, Forum Estudante, initiated the peace boat project. Organisers received support from president Mario Soares, prime minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, and foreign minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who called the voyage an "extraordinarily generous and courageous decision." Former president General Ramalho Eanes joined the ship at Darwin as it prepared for the final phase of its 12,000km voyage.

Australia, which hosts a large East Timor exile community, was an uneasy stopover for the protesters' challenge to Indonesia's illegal occupation of the former Portuguese colony. On the one hand, the voyage caught the public imagination and enjoyed extensive press coverage; Australians referred affectionately to the ferry as "Lucy." On the other hand, Australian politicians agreed with the Indonesian authorities that the peace mission was "provocative." Liberal (that is, conservative) opposition leader John Hewson outdid Paul Keating's Labor Party government in opposing the mission, saying that the government should have issued a stronger warning to Australians who intended to sail on the Lucy. Other governments — including those of Britain, Canada, and the USA — also attempted to warn their citizens against taking part in the mission.

On 11 March, after the ferry had been forced to turn back (by three fully-armed Indonesian warships), there was a brief and emotional ceremony as the wreathes destined for the Santa Cruz cemetery were placed in the sea. Captain Luis dos Santos then sailed south, further into international waters, where a press conference was held.

Attention now shifts to the trials in Dili and the Indonesian capital Jakarta of 13 East Timorese who are accused of "trying to subvert the state" in connection with the November massacres. The maximum sentence could be death.

The British Coalition for East Timor has begun a campaign in the UK around the political trials. Organisers ask for letters to be sent to the Foreign Office requesting the British government to:

- protest to Indonesia for charging and trying East Timorese for what are considered elsewhere to legitimate political activities
- monitor the trials in Dili and Jakarta closely
- protest against the exclusion of journalists from East Timor, which means that the trials cannot be reported properly to the outside world.

British Coalition for East Timor, 38 Ewhurst House, Jamaica St, London E1 3HS (tel and fax +44 71/071 639 4700). There will be a memorial service for the Santa Cruz massacre victims at St Brides Church, Fleet Street, London EC4 at 5pm on 20 March, followed by a procession to the Indonesian embassy.

CANDLELIGHTS IN DARWIN

AP, Darwin, Paul, Alexander, March 12 - Weary activists blocked from reaching East Timor staged a candlelight ceremony Thursday in memory of pro-independence demonstrators killed in the former Portuguese colony.

Just four hours after returning to Darwin, the student-led group joined members of the city's East Timorese community outside the Indonesian consulate.

About 250 people lit white candles and laid wreaths for those gunned down in November in East Timor.

The activists had hoped to conduct a similar memorial ceremony in Dili, the capital of East Timor.

The ship's captain, Luis doe Santos, said Thursday he complained to Portuguese maritime authorities over alleged dangerous conduct by the warships. He said he would take the matter to the United Nations.

"The ships, they were so close to me, you can imagine that if at that particular time, I had a problem with my rudder, and my ship started to turn suddenly ... it would create a problem, a big problem," he said.

LUCY IN DARWIN

UPI, Darwin, March 12 - The Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso returned safely to Darwin Thursday after being turned back by Indonesian gunboats while trying to sail to East Timor.

The ship disembarked all of its 120 passengers, most of whom then marched to renew their protests outside the Indonesian Consulate.

Protesters said there was tension when the Indonesian navy ordered them to turn back under threat of force Wednesday, but said they were always confident that they would not be attacked.

"I didn't believe the Indonesians would have fired at us," said Paul Matters, one of the principal organizers, as he left the ship. "They probably would have boarded us, arrested us and impounded the ship."

Matters said their main concern now was for the East Timorese people.

"I think this is the biggest concern, whether people have been arrested simply because they had been organizing some kind of welcome for us," he said.

Another protester, Rob Wesley-Smith, said the mission had been a success even though they failed to reach Dili.

"We drew the attention of the world to the plight of the Timorese people once again, and this is very necessary if we are going to resolve their plight, which is probably the worst situation for any people in the world at this moment," he said.

Officials said the Lusitania Expresso would leave Darwin Friday to go to dry-dock in Singapore before undertaking another charter in Europe.

INDONESIA DEMONSTRATES NEW NAVAL POWER

Reuter, Jakarta, Moses Manoharan, March 12 - "The naval build-up was clearly a show of force," said one Western diplomat. It far exceeded what was needed on Wednesday to stop the aging ferry, the Lusitania Expresso.

The flotilla was led by Van Speijk class frigates acquired from the Netherlands and fitted with state-of-the-art electronic surveillance equipment.

The frigates were part of a consignment of six that the Netherlands finished delivering last year.

Jakarta projects its naval power across sealanes marked out by Indonesia under an "archipelagic concept" that puts its 13,000 islands and the sea separating them into one indivisible sovereign territory.

The London-based magazine International Defence Review said that area covered 5,200,000 square km, (2,007,722 square miles), 60 per cent of it water.

In 1988, Indonesia closed two island straits for naval exercises, provoking an international outcry.

"The matter remains a source of irritation, both between Indonesia and its regional neighbours, as well as remote trading nations whose ships use the straits," the magazine said.

The sealanes under its influence include the crucial Malacca Straits through which 70 per cent of Japan's oil supplies and much of the world's east-to-west trade pass.

A ship travels through the narrow straits, also bordered by Singapore and Malaysia, once every 10 seconds, one naval officer said.

Other vital sealanes are in the waters around the disputed Spratly islands and through the Indonesian archipelago, which separates much of Asia from Australia and the Indian Ocean.

"The Iran-Iraq and Gulf Wars taught the Indonesians a few lessons about the importance of sealanes," said one foreign naval officer, adding that Jakarta may be worried about being drawn into a conflict over the Spratlys.

The naval expansion includes doubling the submarine fleet to four with the purchase of two submarines from Germany.

Indonesia's Surabaya shipyard is building four hydrofoils for the rapid transport of troops between islands, and two patrol boats every year.

French-made Exocet and U.S.-made Harpoon missiles, as well as Bofors guns from Sweden, arm the navy, which must soon replace many of the 17 frigates that form its backbone.

The replacements have sparked a debate in the military, the diplomats said. One side wants to boost coastal defences and the other wants to project a longer-range blue water presence beyond its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a 200-mile limit that is not internationally recognised.

Those wanting stronger coastal defences sought more patrol boats for protecting the EEZ, while those favouring a strong blue water navy campaigned for frigates and destroyers.

INDONESIA HARDENS ON TIMOR (ANTARA)

Remark: Scanned article from FBIS. "Antara English." Government, military, media, and popular reaction in Indonesia to the voyage of the Lusitania Expresso was overwhelmingly negative. This Antara story, written with obvious venom and plainly propagandistic, is much more representative of Indonesian views than the relatively sober story from Kompas posted earlier. It would not be overstating the case to say that the voyage resulted in a hardening of Indonesian positions on East Timor, whereas prior to the voyage positions were somewhat more volatile in the wake of the November 12 massacre, repeated official regrets over the deaths, and President Soeharto's timely and considered series of "compensatory" measures.

A review of available non-Indonesian media reaction suggests that the Lusitania Expresso story made significant impacts only in the Portuguese and Australian media. Elsewhere it was a minor item when it was covered at all. The impact of the voyage was probably greatest on the participants themselves. While many were long-time activists for Timorese independence, a striking number were relatively new recruits to this cause. In this sense, the foreign solidarity movement has been given a boost by the voyage. This will become particularly evident when all the participants have returned home.

On the other hand, some foreign supporters of the East Timorese cause, including myself, remain stunned that over a million dollars in funds was raised for a voyage which almost surely resulted in a net diminution of sympathy for East Timorese rights among Indonesians at home and abroad. It is difficult not to believe this vast sum could have been more fruitfully spent by the many chronically cash-poor — and even the few cash-rich — non-governmental organizations outside and inside Indonesia working on behalf of the East Timorese people.

— John MacDougall

PORTUGUESE PEACE BOAT RETURNS TO DARWIN

Jakarta ANTARA in English 12 Mar 92

Darwin, Mar 12 (OANA-ANTARA) - The Portuguese ferry Lusitania Expresso which has conducted a failed provocative sailing to East Timor, arrived back at Darwin port at 1530 local time (1300 western Indonesian time) with no well-wishers welcoming her at the port, ANTARA's correspondent, Riris Irawati, reported here Thursday.

Rob Wesley-Smith, one of the mission's organizers earlier told ANTARA that he could not expect well-wishers to welcome the ferry because people in Darwin were still at work by 1500 hrs.

In the latest contact earlier, Expresso informed that it had reached 30 miles off the Darwin waters and would berth at the port in three hours, said Smith who is known as a hard-liner of the East Timor FRETILIN [Revolution Front For An Independent East Timor] trouble makers group (GPK) in the Australian Northern Territory.

Meanwhile, Peter G. Spillett, an Australian history expert who has undertaken a lot of researches in South Sulawesi and East Timor, said that the Expresso's mission was nothing other than an effort to gain cheap publicity.

Commenting on the claim of the organizers that the mission had achieved a great success, Spillett said that the aim of their mission was to lay wreaths on the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili.

They failed in reaching Dili, how could they claim they have gained success?, he said. [punctuation as received]

Spilett, who is also known in South Sulawesi as Daeng Makulle, said that the Portuguese citizens who came to Australia to join the Expresso mission under a pretext of human rights protection were hypocrites.

They obviously forget pressures and violations of human rights principles in Mozambique, Angola and Macau, he said adding that the Portuguese ambassador to Australia seemed to have lost orientation when he said those aboard the ferry wanted to unite with their brothers in East Timor.

He said no one of those aboard the old ferry really had the intention to unite with the people of East Timor because in principle they have their own lives.

Local media reported that on its way back to Darwin, the ship developed engine trouble while other sources said it was quite possible that the difficulty was intentionally designed.

Wesley-Smith, when asked on the trouble with the ferry's engine cooling system, could not give confirmation saying that he had not yet succeeded in contacting Expresso's captain to obtain the correct information.

He said the Portuguese ship was no longer escorted by the Indonesian naval frigate, indicating that Expresso was really sailing to Darwin.

Wesley-Smith also said that the mission organizers also planned to lay wreaths on the premises of the Indonesian Consulate building here at 2000 hours local time.

ANTARA's correspondent in Dili reported on Wednesday evening that commander of KRI [Republic Of Indonesia Ship] Yos Sudarso Marine Colonel Winarno at 0632 hours (Eastern Indonesian Time - EIT) had ordered Lusitania Expresso Captain Luis dos Santos to go back immediately to the high seas when the ferry just entered the Indonesian water territory, 12 miles from the Timor Sea.

Before the ferry entered the Indonesian waters, the KRI Yos Sudarso Commander had given a warning to the Portuguese ferry's captain that his 1,622 dwt vessel was about to enter the Indonesian territory illegally.

But the obstinate ship's captain steered forth to the Indonesia's water border forcing Colonel Winarno to issue a second order and only then the ship which sailed under the Portuguese flag to fulfill a provocative mission to East Timor, turned its bow to 180 degrees sailing back in the direction of Darwin.

Meanwhile reports received by ANTARA from KRI Kerapu also on Wednesday afternoon said that two warships of the East Indonesia fleet viz. KRI Yos Sudarso and KRI Ki Hajar Dewantara had driven the ferry carrying 120 passengers including students, journalists and activists, away to the high seas.

At a point of some ten miles from the Indonesian water territory Lusitania Expresso found time to put out its engines and the activists on board threw ten wreaths into the waves.

A festive mood had prevailed aboard the old 8-10 knot speed vessel but when entering the Indonesian water territory the atmosphere was rather tightened.

KRI Ki Hajar Dewantara at 2000 hours (East Indonesian Time) was sailing against the Portuguese ferry which was about 70 miles away from the Indonesian borders.

Then when the ferry was about five miles away of the borders, the KRI Yos Sudarso sailed against the ferry to establish a radio communication and issue the order to quit from the Indonesian territory.

COMMENT FROM TAPOL

Apr 2, 1992

PRESS COVERAGE OF LUSITANIA

To put the record straight, the Singapore press gave the Peace Ship a lot of coverage. We received today seven clippings about it from The Straits Times. All are substantial in size, three-, four- or five-column reports. Several have large-sized photos of the ship or of passengers. All are published in the Asean section of the paper at the top of the page, so very eye-catching. Some are based on AFP or Reuter reports from Jakarta. Four are filed by the paper's correspondent in Jakarta, Paul Jacob.

Also, please dont overlook the hard-hitting editorial published in Bangkok's The Nation prompted by the Lusitania mission.

The Malaysian press, as we know from the report in The Nation posted on reg.easttimor last week, is under pressure from Mahatir not to publish anything unhelpful to Indonesia.

We should recognise the growing concern in Asean countries about East Timor, and the Lusitania mission did get some significant coverage in those countries where the

[rest of this piece is missing]

LUSITANIA OBEYS ORDERS AND RETURNS TO DARWIN

(KOMPAS)

Translated from Kompas Kamis, Mar 12.

Remark: I've not closely checked the translation except mainly inserting in brackets English versions of untranslated acronyms. For the meticulous, "Wita" means Central Indonesia Time, "WIB" Western Indonesia Time. Be aware that in any case Erick omits the final part of the Kompas article which deals with a demonstration by Universitas Timor Timur students opposing the visit of the Lusitania Expresso.

Here is Kompas' version of Lucy's retreat. Much has been left out of the Western wire service and other accounts. Of some interest is the personal presence of generals Mantiri and Syafei in a helicopter which watched Lucy. This seems characteristic especially of Syafei's leave-nothing-to-chance, hands-on approach to events involving East Timor.

— John MacDougall

I have translated the following news concerning the Lusitania Expresso from the original Indonesian. This story ran in Indonesia in Kompas. I have tried to translate as accurately from Indonesian as possible; however if there are any mistakes in the translation it is entirely my responsibility. I feel it is very important that everyone also have access to the viewpoint of the Indonesian press. That is why I took the time to translate this.

— Erick Venden

The Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso stopped and returned to Darwin after receiving a warning from KRI Yos Sudarso in close proximity with KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Ki Hadjardewantoro, Wednesday morning (11/3) at 06:07. At that time the Lusitania Expresso was 1 mile inside Indonesian waters, it immediately turned its bow around and headed back in the direction of Darwin, shadowed by KRI Yos Sudarso and KRI Ki Hadjardewantoro. [Information Service Head] Navy Lt Colonel Toto Soenyoto made contact with the Lusitania Expresso from KRI Yos Sudarso when the Portuguese ship was still 3 miles from the border of Indonesian waters. The Commander of Frigate 353 KRI Yos Sudarso warned the Lusitania Expresso not to enter Indonesian waters. However, the Lusitania moved forward to 1 mile inside Indonesian territorial waters. After the warning was given that the Lusitania had entered Indonesian waters they were asked to return to international waters, the captain of the Lusitania Expresso Luis Dos Santos immediately altered the course of his ship.

KRI Yos Sudarso moved close to their ship and requested that they "leave these waters immediately and return to international waters." Before Captain Luis Dos Santos altered the course of his ship, KRI Yos Sudarso said "If you continue your journey we will take measures to force you to leave these waters." There were four warnings delivered by the Commander of the KRI Yos Sudarso, but there was no further measures taken. One and a half hours sailing time towards Darwin the Lusitania Expresso stopped and announced that they were making repairs to the cooling system on the ship. Lusitania hoisted two black balls to signal the ship was stopped dead in the water.

08:15, An Indonesian Army Bell 204 helicopter carrying passengers among which were Pangdam [Commander of Military Area] IX/Udayana Major General Mantiri and Pangkolakops Timor Timur [East Timor Operations Execution Commander] Brig General Theo Syafei, who organized the aircraft maneuvers over the Lusitania Expresso.

A journalist from Kompas Budiman Tanuredjo rode inside the helicopter reported that the Lusitania was not moving faced with 3 Indonesian ships, namely KRI Yos Sudarso, KRI Ki Hadjardewantoro, and commando ship KRI Teluk Banten, at coordinate 8 degrees 36 minutes latitude and 127 degrees 40 minute longitude east 20 miles from the eastern tip of Timor island. Meanwhile another journalist from Kompas Ansel Da Lopez was onboard KRI Yos Sudarso.

It was noticed from the helicopter that something was floating in the water around the Lusitania Expresso. [Actually, the text says the waters were 'dirty.'] It was determined that the items [actually, the text says 'dirt' or 'refuse'] floating in the water were flowers scattered by the demonstrators of the Lusitania as a sign of sorrow for the incident in Dili 12 November 1991. It was originally intended to scatter the flowers in Dili. At that time an Indonesian Army helicopter and a Cassa 212 flew around the Lusitania Expresso. Through the helicopter pilot Lettu [First Lieutenant] Burhanuddin, Major General Mantiri congratulated the Eastern Fleet Commander Laksda [Rear Admiral] Tanto Koeswanto who was onboard KRI Teluk Banten.

09.07, After being asked several question by KRI Yos Sudarso, Lusitania Expresso answered that they were preparing to leave. The ship began to move at 10 knots in the direction of Darwin. During its voyage the Lusitania was shadowed by KRI Yos Sudarso, KRI Ki Hadjardewantoro, and KRI Teluk Banten to 100 miles from the eastern tip of Timor island. It is expected that if the Lusitania Expresso maintains 10 knots she will arrive in Darwin Thursday about 17:30.

Meanwhile a journalist from Kompas Ratih Hardjono reported from Darwin, the owner of the ship Lusitania Expresso Carlos Rocha Cabecas said that when the ship entered the territorial limit the first question raised by the Commander of the KRI Yos Sudarso was who are you and where are you going. Captain Luis Dos Santos answered giving his name, the name of the ship, and said clearly that he intended to sail to Dili. Then Santos asked if the Commander of the KRI Yos Sudarso wished to speak with the spokesman of the demonstrators onboard. KRI Yos Sudarso rejected this request and ordered that Lusitania immediately return to international waters.

Carlos Cabecas said he was happy because the ship was safe, but was also unhappy because the ship was being shadowed by Indonesian warships far into international waters.

Kompas' source in Darwin said that he believed that the Lusitania was already at the territorial border since 0300. The ship waited until the sunrise before moving on.

DARWIN PROTEST BY PEACE BEATERS SAID PROVOCATIVE (ANTARA)

Remark: Scanned articles from FBIS.

Jakarta, ANTARA in English 13 Mar 92

Jakarta, March 13 (OANA-ANTARA)- The demonstration lodged by the passengers of the Lusitania Expresso and members of the East Timorese troublemakers group (GPK) in front of the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin, indicated that the controversial voyage of the ship to lay wreaths in the Santa Cruz cemetery in Din is obviously a provocation, a senior military officer has said.

After failing in their provocative voyage on the Lusitania Expresso (to Dili), they still launched another provocative action by staging a demonstration in front of our consulate building, spokesman for the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro said here late Thursday.

The Portuguese ship which carried some 130 passengers turned back towards Darwin Wednesday morning after three Indonesian Navy warships intercepted it while cruising towards East Timor.

Nearly 150 people took part in the demonstration, ANTARA journalist Riris Irawati reported from Darwin on Thursday night.

Some demonstrators laid wreaths in front of the consulate while one of them was reading a protest petition.

The demonstration was apparently triggered by the abortive voyage of the ship which had cost nearly 1.5 million U.S. dollars.

Australian police officers were on high alert to deal with a possible attack by the demonstrators against the building.

There were no reports of damage in the incident.

The demonstrators looked angry after their failure to lay wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery, which Jakarta called as a provocative mission.

The demonstrators also looked very angry when an ANTARA journalist took a photograph of the event.

The police suggested the Indonesian journalists who covered the event to act prudently so as not to enrage the demonstrators.

The demonstration, which lasted a relatively short time ended at 21.30 (local time).

The Australian ABC Television network reported on Thursday night that the organizers of the mission had planned another provocative voyage in a larger scale next year.

COMMANDER SAYS PORTUGAL'S CREDIBILITY DAMAGED

Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 Mar 92

Brigadier General Theo Syafei, commander of the East Timor Operations Command, says Portugal's credibility in the eyes of its supporters in East Timor has plummeted after the ship Lusitania Expresso was easily turned back by the Indonesian Armed Forces. Speaking to reporters in Dili before he left for Jakarta yesterday, the commander said the failure of the Portuguese ship's mission has strongly affected the morale of its supporters in Dili. Portugal must have believed that the ship's provocative mission would produce something more significant than the 12 November 1991 incident.

But now Portugal's credibility has been strongly affected by the amateurish voyage of the ship. To make things worse, former Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes was also aboard the so-called peace boat.

From his observation, our correspondent Sudirman Hala reports that the situation in East Timor, especially in Dili, is now calm and local people arc relieved to see the Portuguese ship's failure to enter Indonesian territorial waters.

SUCCESS IN THWARTING PORTUGUESE SHIP HAILED

Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 14 Mar 92

[From the press review]

SUARA KARYA discusses Indonesia's success in thwarting the provocative voyage of the Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso. This daily says there is a lesson to be learned from the event – namely, that with a firm stand based on existing laws as well as our ability not to be provoked easily, we can eventually force our opponents to turn back. Besides, the fact that the Lusitania Expresso's captain heeded the Indonesian warship Yos Sudarso's warnings amounts to a sort of recognition of our country's sovereignty over East Timor. This means that we have once again refuted the argument of Portugal, which has always claimed sovereignty over East Timor.

KEDAULATAN RAKYAT says Indonesia's success in chasing away the Portuguese ship has tremendously enhanced our spirit of patriotism and heroism. Our next task concerns how to maintain such patriotism and heroism so as to ensure the success of development and uphold our national dignity.

PEACE SHIP IMPOUNDED BY COURT RESTRAINING ORDER

Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 15 March 92

It has been reported from Darwin that the Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso, which failed to carry out its provocative mission in Indonesian waters, has been impounded because its owner had an unpaid debt of $50,000 to a Spanish company. Officials in Darwin disclosed that lawyers of the Spanish company have obtained a court restraining order that prevented the ship from leaving Darwin last Friday.

TIMOR PEACE SHIP RETURNS

By Debbie Sewell, Green Left Weekly. March 17, 1992

DARWIN - The Lusitania Expresso set sail from Darwin on Monday, March 9 heading for Dili to lay floral wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery, site of a massacre by Indonesian forces on November 12 last year. Songs of freedom rang out as the boat was given an emotional farewell by hundreds from Darwin's Timorese community and supporters.

First contact with Indonesian forces came at 2 p.m. the next day. Ironically, it was an Australian designed and built Nomad aircraft, which made low passes over the peace ship. Aircraft surveillance continued late into the afternoon.

Tension increased when a small frigate was seen at 11 p.m. Tuesday evening. It sailed in close to the Lusitania, keeping a parallel distance of one mile.

At 7 a.m. on Wednesday, with the mountains of East Timor visible 16 miles away, three navy vessels could be seen approaching the Lusitania. The captain tried to make contact. The Indonesian naval commander eventually made radio contact, warning the peace ship that it would be forced to leave.

There was no doubt in the mind of Lusitania captain Luis Dos Santos that the Indonesian authorities would use force.

The unarmed peace ship was harassed by three navy warships and helicopters for four hours. Peace mission organiser Antonio Ravara said, "This is a violent action against the ship. The Indonesians don't have to fire their guns in order to have a violent confrontation." The ship was finally forced to sail out of the area, escorted by warships well into the evening.

The short voyage forged a bond between the participants, mainly students, from 21 countries. A prayer service was conducted and wreaths and flowers were thrown into the ocean in a symbolic message of hope and love for the people of East Timor.

An international student network is being set up to disseminate information and coordinate activities in support of human rights and the East Timorese struggle for self determination.

LUCY — PAWN IN THE GAME?

AP, Melbourne, March 15 - Portugal's main government-owned oil company was the biggest backer of last week's East Timor protest boat, despite organizers' claims the mission was non-political.

Portugal consistently claimed it gave moral support to the student protest mission — which Indonesia turned away — but no official or financial backing.

The Portuguese government has filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice about an agreement between Australia and Indonesia to explore the ocean floor off East Timor, which is believed to have huge, lucrative oil and mineral reserves.

The United Nations never has recognized Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. Australia is one of two UN members that do.

Galp Petroleos de Portugal provided up to $600,000 for the mission, which also received funding from six Portuguese banks and a major electronics company, Marconi, Melbourne's respected Sunday *Age* newspaper reported.

Portuguese media also have reported that a group of businessmen from northern Portugal, including former Defense Minister Eurico de Melo, saved the mission at the last moment with an injection of money.

Rui Marques, the mission's director, consistently claimed the effort was paid for with a fund-raising drive by a Portuguese student newspaper he edits, "Forum Estudiante."

Members of the mission had raised questions about the funding — which allowed the students to be flown from Europe and put up in luxury hotels — before the boat left shore, but were assured by Marques that it was non-political.

However, one person who decided not to go told the Sunday *Age* that when pressed, Marques provided a list of the banks and mentioned Galp.

"It was pretty clear we were quite possibly pawns in the hands of an oil company with potential interests in the Timor Sea ... that it was in the interests of that oil company, quite possibly, to damage relations between Australia and Indonesia," said Nick Woods of Britain.

The Sunday *Age* said a mission organizer, who spoke anonymously for fear of "reprisals," confirmed that Galp was the biggest backer.

LUCY'S OWNERS MAY SUE INDONESIA

Reuter, Lisbon, Stephen Brown, March 13 - The owners of the Portuguese "peace boat" turned back by Indonesian warships from East Timor said on Friday they would take legal action against Jakarta via the United Nations and International Maritime Organisation.

"Nobody is allowed to stop a ship in international waters and not let it proceed...especially when it is on a peace mission," Rui Coias, chairman of Portuguese ship owners Contramar, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"We are going to take this to the IMO in London and to (the United Nations in) New York," he said.

The Portuguese government has already announced it will take steps against Jakarta.

Coias said the action by three Indonesian frigates contravened international maritime law and the U.N. ruling that East Timor, invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed a year later, is still officially under the administration of Portugal.

The warships threatened to use force if the ferry did not turn back, saying it was in Indonesian waters. Coias said it was three miles outside the territorial waters of East Timor.

The frigates threatened the ferry again when it had to stop 28 miles outside Timorese waters because of engine problems.

"When the ferry stopped they surrounded it...and were very intimidating to the captain," said Coias.

Contramar was consulting its insurance company about what action to take, but ferry captain Luis dos Santos had already lodged complaints with Australian and Portuguese authorities.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro said on Thursday he was awaiting reports from Dos Santos which he would "take to the appropriate organisations."

"The incident did not take place within Indonesian national waters but within Timorese waters, for which Portugal is the administering power," he added.

Sydney, Mar 14 (ips) — the owner of the Portuguese ship, 'Lusitania Expresso,' which was intercepted by Indonesia while bound for East Timor on a peace mission, said it was taking legal action against Jakarta for forcing the ship to abort its journey, the Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported Saturday.

Rui Coias, chairman of Contramar, the ship's owner, said it would bring its case before the United Nations and the International Maritime Organisation.

Stopping a ship in international waters and denying it the right to proceed contravenes international maritime law, Coias said.

The United Nations continues to recognise East Timor as falling under the administrative authority of Portugal. the former Portuguese colony was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the year after.

The 'Lusitania' was carrying about 120 students, human rights activists and journalists who were on their way to the East Timor capital of Dili to lay flowers at the cemetery site of the massacre of more than a hundred Timorese protesters by Indonesian soldiers last Nov. 12.

The mission was aborted Wednesday when the ship was forced by an Indonesian navy fleet to leave international waters some 26 nautical miles from East Timor.

Meanwhile, an Australian court authorised Friday the impounding of the 'Lusitania' a day after it arrived in the northern Australian port of Darwin following its aborted mission.

A Spanish firm had obtained a writ from the Darwin supreme court alleging the owners had failed to pay a debt of more than 52,000 dollars. The writ was placed on the bridge of the 28-year-old passenger ferry less than a day after it docked in Darwin.

Lawyer John Neil who represented the Spanish firm said the alleged debt dated back to 1990 when Contramar chartered another vessel from the Spanish firm and failed to pay up.

The ship's Portuguese owners were not represented at the hearing.

ANTARA STONED IN DILI

UPI, Jakarta, March 17 - Reports Tuesday from East Timor said youths, believed to be supporters of the pro-independence Fretilin movement, threw stones and staged demonstrations in reaction to the Indonesian navy blocking a planned visit last week by the Portuguese "peace ship" Lusitania Expresso.

Youths threw stones at the state-run Antara news agency office, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported.

INDONESIA SLAMS HYPOCRISY ON LUCY

Remark: Forwarded by akuhon. The story derives from press releases by the Permanent Missions of Indonesia and Portugal to the United Nations.

New York, March 20, 1992—-Indonesia reaffirms its commitment to fully cooperate with the United Nations Secretary General in his efforts to find a comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor, it was announced by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the U.N. in New York on Thursday, March 19.

The release apparently answered a challenge from Portugal. In a release a week earlier, the Portuguese government reiterated its readiness to participate in a dialogue with Indonesia and all parties, "under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, and without any preconditions, with a view to finding a solution," according to the Portugal release dated March 11.

The Indonesian release also said that in order to ensure a solution, an atmosphere conducive for such efforts must be created. "For that purpose, it is imperative that Portugal show sincerity and good faith by words and deeds," it said, "and desist from its smear campaign and maneuvering against Indonesia."

On the other side, the Portuguese government in its release called attention to the seriousness of the prevailing situation in East Timor, saying that Indonesia's attitude must be strongly condemned "since it used force to prevent innocent passage of a vessel transporting unarmed civilians, from various nationalities, who only intended to show solidarity toward the victims."

The release from the Indonesian side acknowledged that upon entering the Indonesian territorial sea, two frigates, KRI Yos Sudarso and KRI Ki Hajar Dewantara, intercepted the Portuguese-flag ship Lusitania Expresso. Following the second request by the Commander of 'KRI Yos Sudarso,' the vessel turned back and left Indonesian waters. According to the release, the commander had acted in conformity with Indonesian government policy. The government had declared that its territorial waters were closed to the Lusitania Expresso and firmly rejected the visit of the vessel. "Since the purpose of the voyage was provocative in nature, far from being a voyage of peace and respect for human rights, it was politically motivated," said the statement.

The Portuguese government stated that it did not have any relationship with the voyage. It was the wish of the people who proposed the trip. "The Portuguese government is not connected with the voyage of the Lusitania Expresso," said Portugal's statement.

It also said that an action of that nature is not consonant with the diplomatic and political steps the Portuguese government is taking in order to defend the legitimate rights of the East Timor people.

The Indonesian release said the Portuguese government has made desperate attempts to disassociate itself from the voyage, arguing that those attempts seriously lacked credibility. Quoting the "Sunday Age" (Australia, March 15, 1992) and "Washington Times" (March 16, 1992), the Indonesian release alleged that the sponsor of the voyage was the Portuguese government-owned oil company so-called Petroleos de Portugal. "These reports contradict the claim of non-involvement so consistently made by the Portuguese government," the Indonesian release said.

GALP CONFIRMS LUCY FUNDING

OIL COMPANY ADMITS ROLE IN TIMOR PEACE VOYAGE

Source: The Sunday Age 22 March 1992
Byline: Paul Daley. Abridged

Portugal's national oil company has confirmed it was a key financial backer of the 'peace voyage' to East Timor, apparently contradicting the Portuguese Government's assurances it was 'not connected' to what was promoted worldwide as a human rights mission.

'The Sunday Age' last week reported GALP Oil — also known as Petroleos de Portugal — added a well-hidden political dimension to the 'East Timorese Peace Mission' by funding the voyage of the Lusitania Expresso with up to AUD$750,000.

Investigations by 'The Sunday Age' contradicted the organisers' persistent claims that the mission was non-political and the backing came only from "private, personal" donations and money raised by a six-month old Portuguese student newspaper.

GALP's 'donation' is significant because the Portuguese Government is strenuously appealing in the World Court of Justice an agreement between Australia and Indonesia to share potential oil rights in the bed of the Timor Sea. Portugal maintains that since it is the UN-recognised 'administering power' of East Timor, any oil treaty not including Lisbon is illegal.

If the court upholds its complaint, Portugal could gain the Timor Sea's very promising oil and mineral rights.

Australia is one of two UN countries to recognise Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, after Portugal withdrew its own administration in 1975.

GALP is entirely owned by the Portuguese Government. In 1990 it supplied 67% of the country's oil consumption.

A spokeswoman for GALP, Ms Manuela Meneses, confirmed during a telephone conversation from Lisbon this week that her company was a key sponsor of the peace mission.

"In solidarity with the aim of the mission we did it. We never tell what our contributions are for such humanitarian efforts...," Ms Meneses said.

Ms Meneses was not sure if GALP was the biggest contributor to the peace mission.

'The Sunday Age' revealed six major Portuguese banks had also funded the peace mission and that its director, Mr Rui Marques, had considerably enhanced his political aspirations through the voyage. Sources close to Mr Marques said that he had little background as an activist and had been approached by two political parties – including the ruling Social Democratic Party – to be a candidate in the next Portuguese

TAINTED LUCY HEADS HOME

Reuter, Sydney, Wilson da Silva, March 23 - A Portuguese ship, forced by Indonesian warships to abandon a "peace mission" to East Timor two weeks ago, left Darwin in northern Australia for home on Monday.

The Lusitania Expresso stopped with engine trouble 30 minutes after weighing anchor but was expected to get under way again overnight, port authority staff in Darwin said.

Most of the students and activists who took part in the mission have already left Australia.

Organisers said the mission was a student venture to highlight human rights abuses in East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975.

The Sunday Age newspaper reported that a Portuguese state-owned refining and distribution company, Petroleos de Portugal, was a key financial backer of the mission, contributing half the venture's budget of 1.2 million U.S. dollars.

The Timor Sea between Australia and Indonesia is a rich potential oilfield. The two countries in January granted 55 oil companies permits to explore it.

Analysts estimate output in the region could reach 200,000 barrels per day by 1995 — double Australia's current offshore oil output.

Portugal, still recognised by the U.N. as East Timor's administering power, has challenged Australia in the World Court over the permits.

Mission media liaison officer Paulo Veiga, still in Australia, denied the mission had been a front for Portuguese oil interests or the Portuguese government. He said the oil company, through its GALP subsidiary, was not the key backer.

"GALP made a donation...the size of donations made by many other Portuguese companies, but it's nowhere near the amount (The Sunday Age) talks about," he said.

PEACE MISSION TURNED BACK BUT FOCUSED ATTENTION ON MASSACRE

By Scott Whalen

Peterborough Examiner, 26 March 1992. Page three article with photo of Lusitania Expresso sailor Genevieve Appleton. Factual errors made by The Examiner reporter.

Comment: A day of action for East Timor at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont. (Canada), which has fewer than 4,000 full-time students, collected 700 letters from students to Canadian and Indonesian government officials. The day also received excellent coverage on the local TV station. A similar public forum at the University of Toronto was held a week earlier.

A week ago, 21-year old Genevieve Appleton of Toronto was sailing on a peace mission to East Timor.

She never got there.

Appleton, who gave a seminar last night at Trent sponsored by the university's East Timor Alert Collective, was part of a group of 120 students and journalists who tried to get to the troubled Indonesian country [sic] last week.

They wanted to lay flowers on the graves of 100 Timorians [sic] killed when soldiers opened fire on 3,500 mourners at a funeral in the East Timor capital of Dili.

"We left from Darwin, Australia. But when we got to the twelve-mile territorial zone around the island, the Indonesians stopped us."

Appleton said three frigates and a helicopter approached the ship. They were fully armed and threatened to shoot unless the students and journalists turned back.

"The captain would not ail any further," Appleton said.

But she points out that despite the fact the group didn't make it to East Timor, the peace mission did accomplish its goal of bringing international attention to the plight of the people there.

Appleton said the atrocities characterized by the shooting deaths last year are continuing in East Timor.

The horror stories of executions, disappearances, child rape, mass sterilization of women and forced abortions are still going on, Appleton says.

"The culture, language and religion of the Timor people is being completely suppressed. It is basically a fascist state."

Besides speaking on the peace mission, Appleton also updated people on the current situation in East Timor where some natives have been charged with subversion for simply handing out pamphlets on human rights [sic].

"Many of these people are facing death sentences and torture for no offences," she said.

Appleton also wants people to know the peace objective for East Timor is continuing. Creating a network of supporters for the Timorians throughout the world is a continuing goal and there are plans for a major protest in Amsterdam in the spring to focus on the international money pouring into the Indonesian-run country.

Work is also continuing through the network to celebrate East Timor Day in December for world-wide recognition of the troubles there.

ABOARD THE TIMOR PEACE SHIP

By John Tomlinson, GreenLeft News, April 1, 1992.

In the wake of the November 12 massacre in Dili, Portuguese students organised the "Missao paz em Timor." And so, on March 9, 120 people from 21 countries boarded the Lusitania Expresso in Darwin with the intention of laying a wreath at the Santa Cruz cemetery in memory of those who died on November 12. The aim of the trip was to make the world stop and think about the people of East Timor and the injustice which has been inflicted on them.

Indonesian military spokespersons had announced beforehand that we would be stopped from entering Indonesian waters, stopped from landing in Dili, refused permission to go to Santa Cruz, blown out of the water ... There were also Indonesian newspapers reporting that the ship had a mine on board which was to be used by the organisers of the peace mission to blow it up in order to pretend that the Indonesian navy had sunk us.

In the late afternoon, with the sun sinking below our bow and 600 people standing on the Darwin wharf singing the Timorese national anthem, the Lusitania Expresso sailed for Timor.

On board were Italians, French, Canadians, Indonesians, Dutch, Brazilians, Australians, British, Portuguese, Indians, Japanese, Swedes, Germans and students from several African countries. The flags of many countries and of the United Nations were hung from an upper rail as a symbol of our truly international character. There were students and workers, men and women, old and young, a Portuguese ex-president and Australian parliamentarians, ex- servicemen and pacifists, and we were united.

The trip proceeded without incident until 8.45 on our second night out, when we had a report that the admiral in charge of the Timor Sea had threatened to shoot us out of the water if we tried to enter Indonesian waters. This was disconcerting, since he'd previously maintained that he only intended to turn us back. We were about an hour away from the Indonesian 200-mile exclusive zone and we had a report from the bridge that they had picked up two ships on the radar, which had a 24-mile range for ships. I went up on deck but could see nothing.

As I returned to the deck at 10.50, a boat light appeared on our port bow about three miles off, coming directly towards us. It was a large vessel, which took up a position half a mile astern and shadowed us all night. During the night it was joined by two other warships.

By dawn we were in sight of the mountains of Timor reaching out in the early morning sun. It was an Australian-supplied warship, Number 353, which at 7.40 a.m., when we were within 12 to 15 miles of Timor, twice ordered the Lusitania Expresso to turn around and leave Indonesian waters. We had reports that there were up to 14 Indonesian warships in the area. We were constantly overflown by a military plane and by two naval and one army helicopter.

At 7.45 we turned round and began heading 10 miles back to sea, where we were given permission to wait one and a half hours while we attempted to get the secretary general of the United Nations to intervene to allow us to proceed. The day before, he had called on Indonesia not to act aggressively towards the peace mission, and Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timorese resistance, said his troops would not fire on the Indonesians while the peace mission was in Timor waters.

As we turned away from East Timor, a short ceremony in Tetum, English, French, German, Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese was conducted on the stern and the wreaths we had hoped to lay at Santa Cruz cemetery were thrown into the water. Many of us cried, disappointed that we had not reached Dili.

Silence fell as people just stood and stared as Timor disappeared behind us. Indonesian warships carried out manoeuvres which brought them within a quarter of a mile of us.

At a series of meetings on board, we decided that Australia should organise a further peace mission to East Timor, to leave Darwin on March 9, 1993. This peace mission is designed either to go to Dili to celebrate East Timor's independence or - if Indonesia has not by then carried out a United Nations-supervised referendum - to again remind Indonesia of the world's desire for it to respect the human rights of the East Timorese.

The Portuguese organisers have agreed to continue to work on the international component of the second peace mission, but this still leaves Australia with the task of raising $1.5 million. This will require the support of the Catholic church, the trade union movement and all Australians of good will. A million and a half dollars may sound a lot of money but it is only 8 cents from every Australian.

EAST TIMOR VOYAGE CLAIMS SUCCESS

[Peace Media Service, 2 April] Despite being blocked from landing by Indonesian warships March 11, passengers on the Lusitania Expresso claimed success in their attempt to lay wreathes at the Santa Cruz cemetery in East Timor where pro-independence demonstrators were killed last November. Those aboard held a brief prayer service before tossing their wreaths for the slain into the sea. Then their ship turned back toward Australia.

The 120 participants in the voyage, mainly students and peace activists, came from 21 countries. Initiated by a Portuguese student group, the organizers received support from President Mario Soares, Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, and Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who called the voyage an "extraordinarily generous and courageous decision." Former President Ramalho Eanes was one of those on board the ship on the final leg of its 12,000 km voyage.

"We drew the attention of the world to the plight of the Timorese people once again," said Rob Wesley-Smith, one of those on board, "and this is essential if we are going to resolve their plight, which is probably the worst situation for any people in the world at this moment."

Though Indonesia's intention to prevent their landing was well-known beforehand, mission organizers claimed they had a right to travel to East Timor because the United Nations never has recognized Indonesia's occupation. Indonesia threatened to use force if the ferry did not turn back.

Two Indonesian frigates tailed the Lusitania Expresso for several hours as they sailed toward East Timor's 12-mile territorial limit. Just before the limit, the ferry made radio contact with a third frigate, which blocked the route and ordered the protesters to turn around. Mission spokesman Peter Monet said from Darwin, where organizers maintained phone contact, that the Indonesians refused any discussions.

"I didn't believe the Indonesians would have fired at us," said Paul Matters, one of the voyage organizers. "They probably would have boarded us, arrested us and impounded the ship."

The ship's captain, Luis doe Santos, charged the Indonesian Navy with dangerous conduct by its warships. He said he would take the matter to the United Nations. "The ships, they were so close to me, you can imagine that if at that particular time, I had a problem with my rudder, and my ship started to turn suddenly . . . it would create a problem, a big problem," he said.

The owners of the ship told Reuters they would take legal action against Jakarta via the International Maritime Organization. "Nobody is allowed to stop a ship in international waters and not let it proceed . . . especially when it is on a peace mission," said Rui Coias, chairman of Portuguese shipowners Contramar.

Australia, with its large East Timor exile community, was a major stopover for the voyage. The peace ship caught the public imagination and had enjoyed wide press coverage. Australians referred affectionately to the ferry as "Lucy."

A disturbing aspect of the voyage came to light afterward when journalists in Australia and Portugal discovered the main funding for the project came from Portugal's government-owned oil company, Galp Petroleos de Portugal. Galp provided up to $750,000 for the mission, which also received funding from six Portuguese banks and a major electronics company, Marconi, Melbourne's Sunday Age newspaper reported. Portuguese media also have reported that a group of businessmen from northern Portugal, including former Defense Minister Eurico de Melo, saved the mission at the last moment with an injection of money.

The Portuguese government has filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice about an agreement between Australia and Indonesia to explore the ocean floor off East Timor, which is believed to have huge, lucrative oil and mineral reserves. If the court upholds its complaint, Portugal could gain the Timor Sea's very promising oil and mineral rights.

A spokeswoman for Galp, Ms. Manuela Meneses, confirmed to Reuters that her company was a key sponsor of the peace mission. "In solidarity with the aim of the mission we did it. We never tell what our contributions are for such humanitarian efforts," she said.

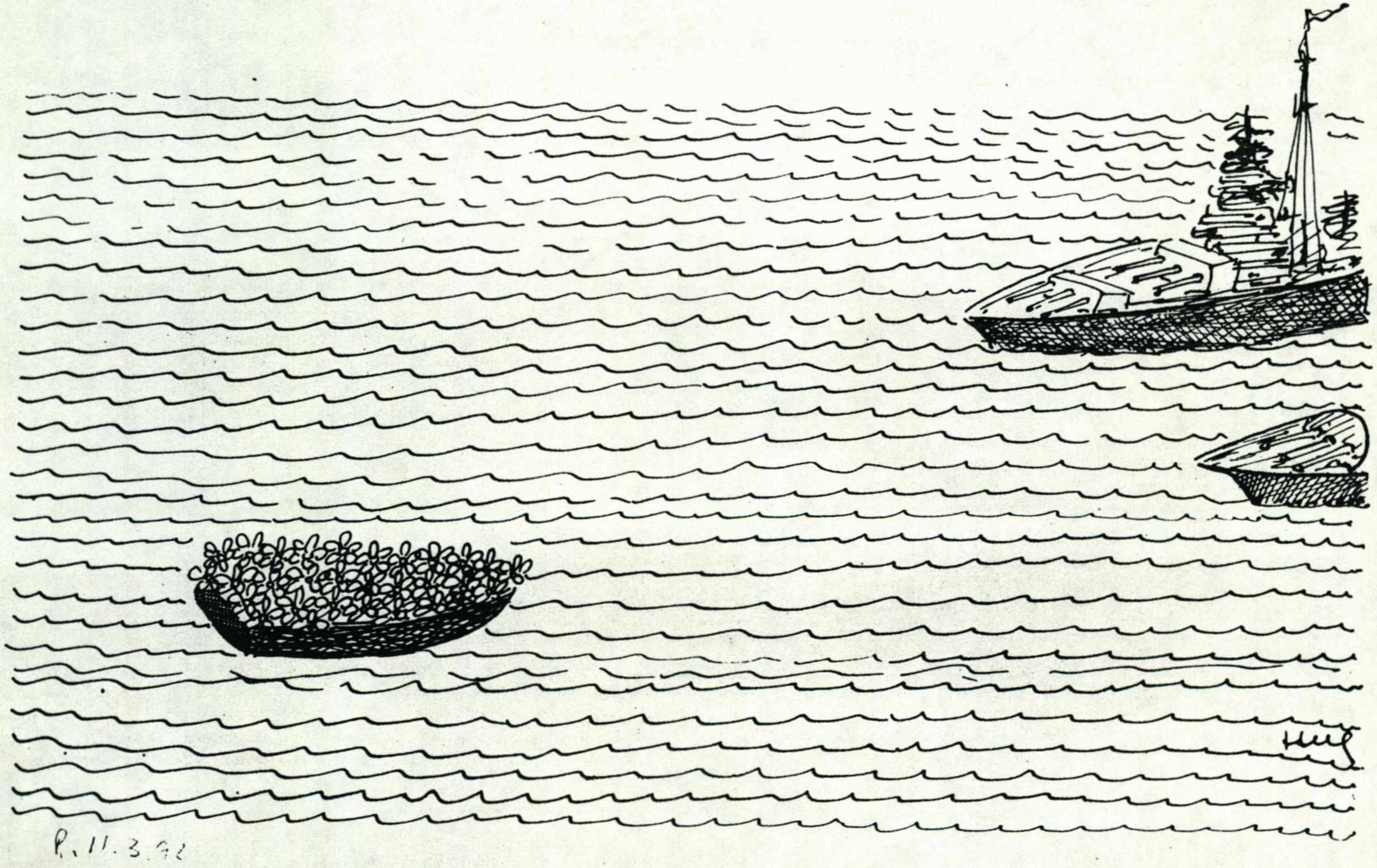
"The Portuguese organizers have a guilty conscience and a hidden agenda," said Australian Senator Graham Tamblin. "They are no longer players in the region and they must accept that and butt out. They deserted Timor in 1975 after they exploited it and have left no adequate social structures in place."

Yet the sincerity and courage of those taking part in the voyage was obvious.

One of them, Lorne Rider of Brown University in the US, said, "We feel contented with the idea that we set a historic precedent. A group of individuals from many countries acted to uphold international law. We return with the profound understanding that individuals can succeed however slightly, in drawing world attention to injustice which our leaders, whose hands are too deep in the coffers, seek to conceal."

Attention now shifts to the trials in Dili and the Indonesian capital Jakarta of 13 East Timorese who are accused of "trying to subvert the state" in connection with the November massacres. The maximum sentence could be death.

FLORES PARA DILI



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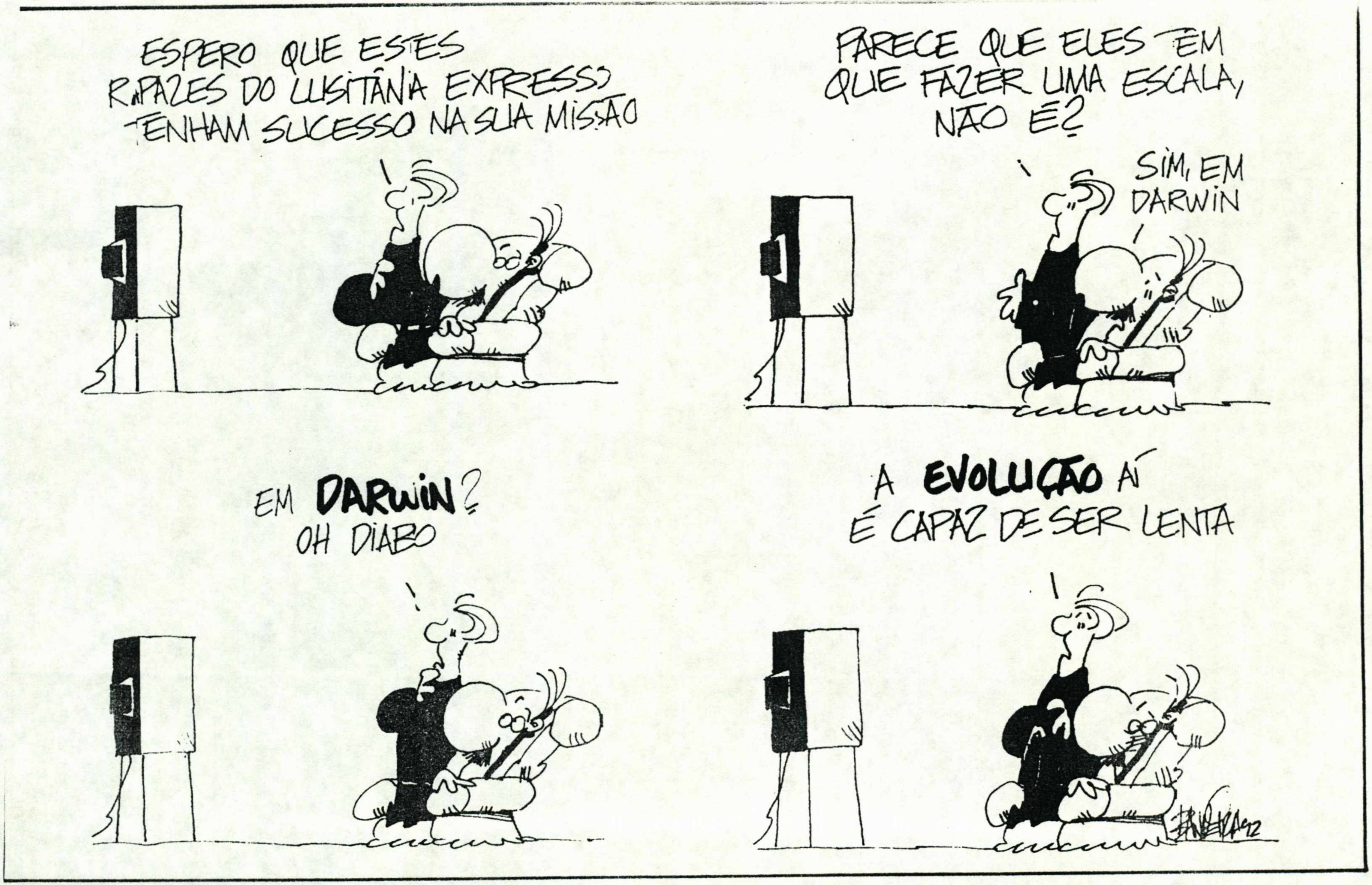
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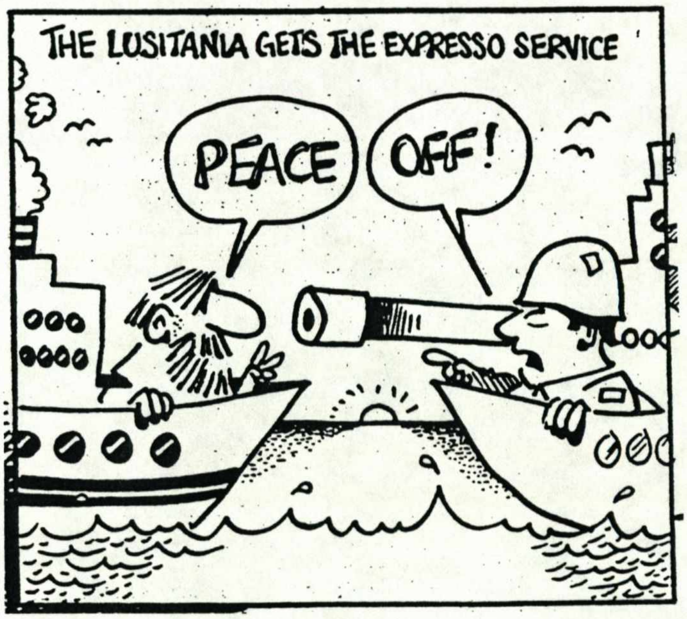
THE LUSITANIA GETS THE EXPRESSO SERVICE
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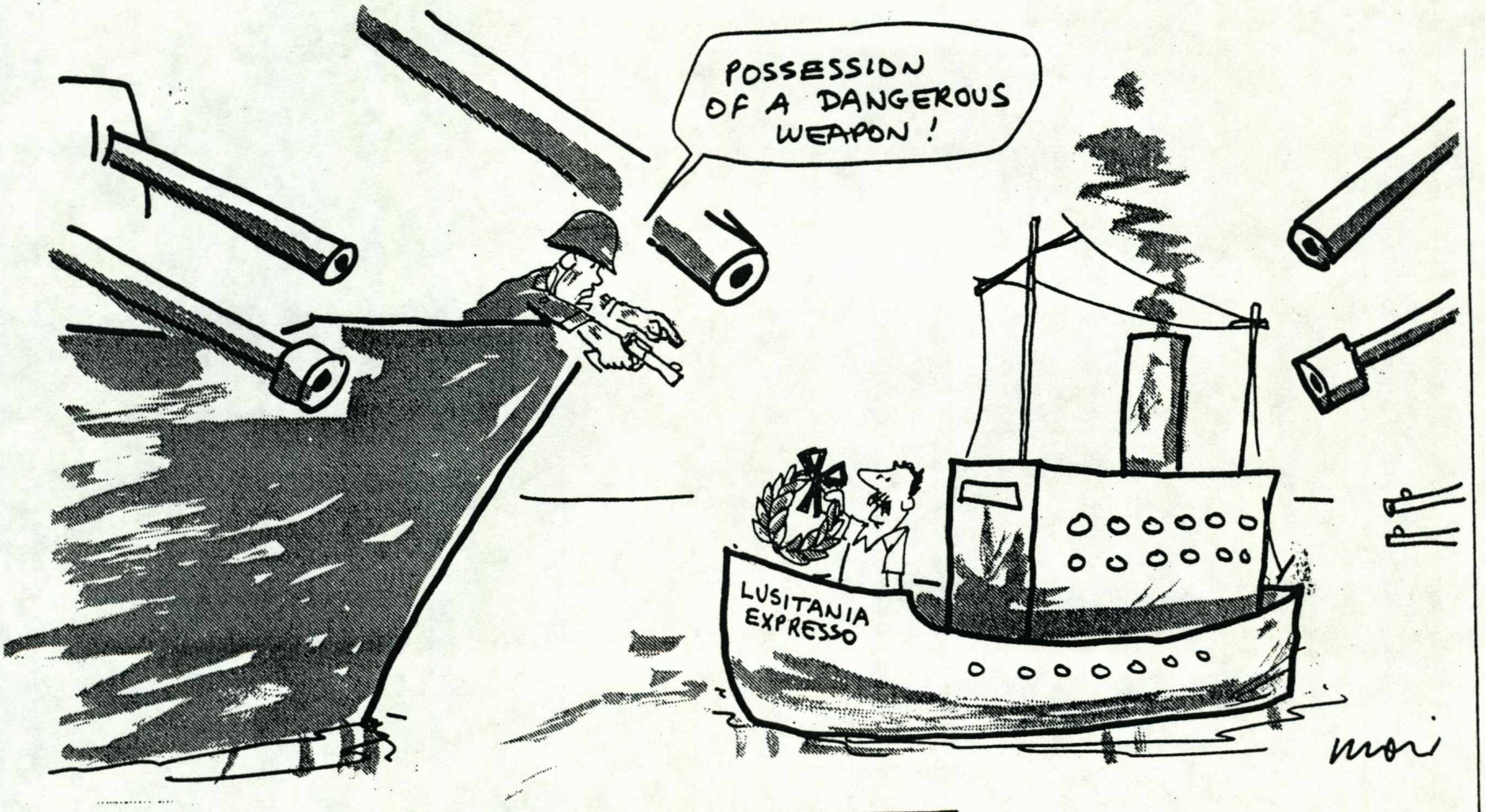
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LETTERS

"the Sidney Morning Herald"
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Recorte de Imprensa

"The Age"
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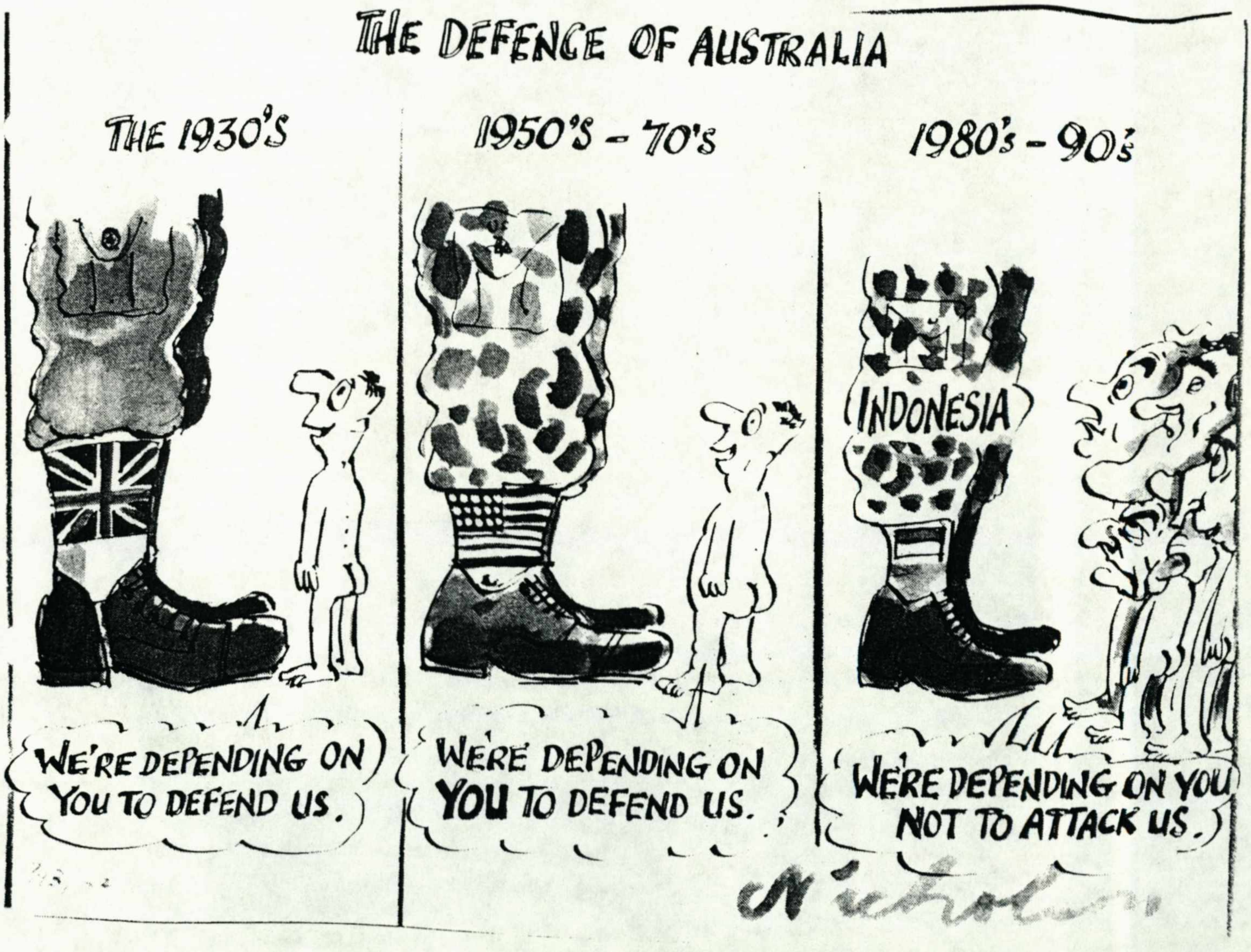
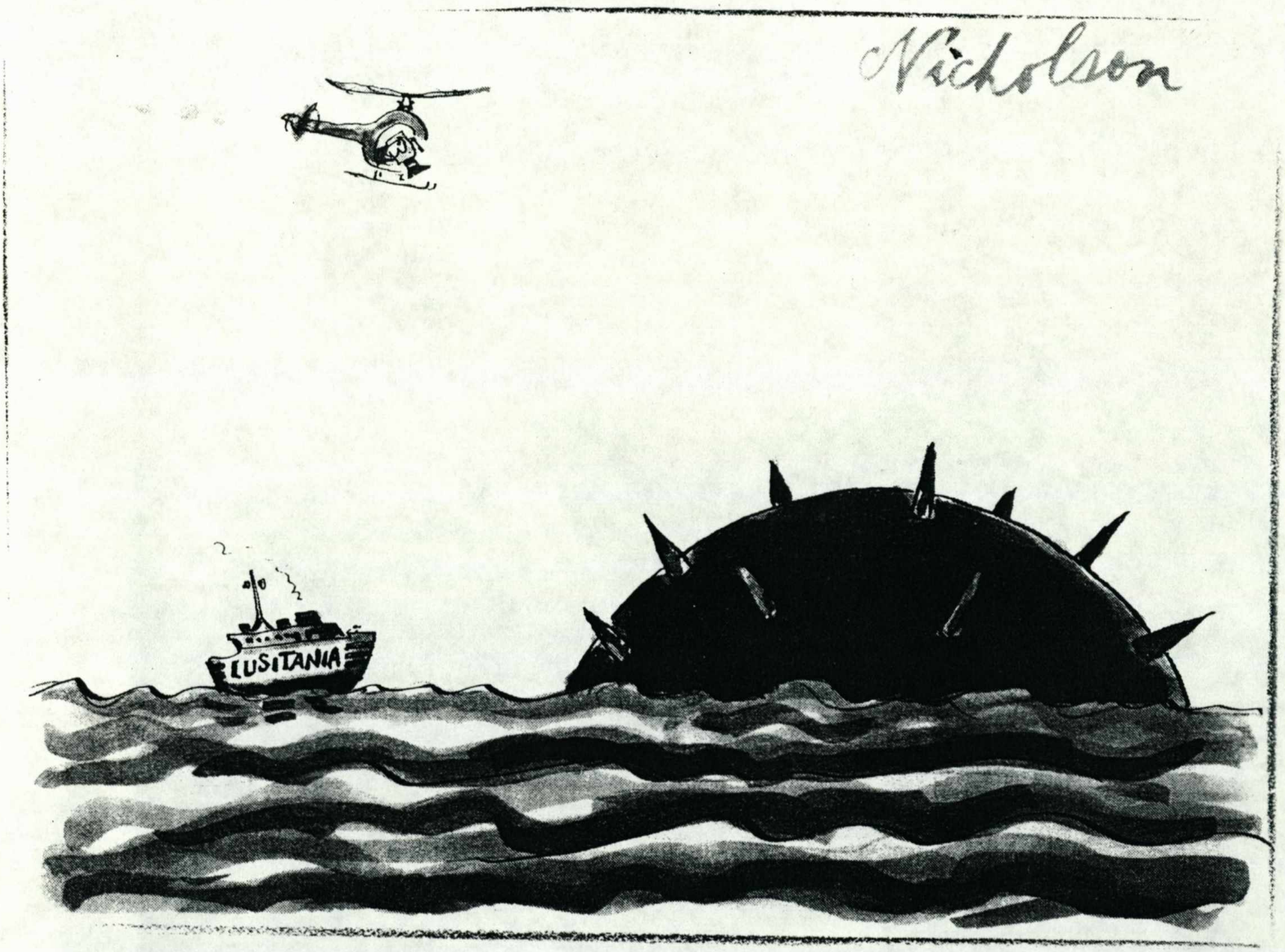

THE DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA
THE 1930'S
1950'S – 70'S
1980's – 90's
INDONESIA
WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU TO DEFEND US.
WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU TO DEFEND US.
WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU NOT TO ATTACK US.
Nicholson

Recorte de Imprensa

"The Age"
11.3.92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LUSITANIA

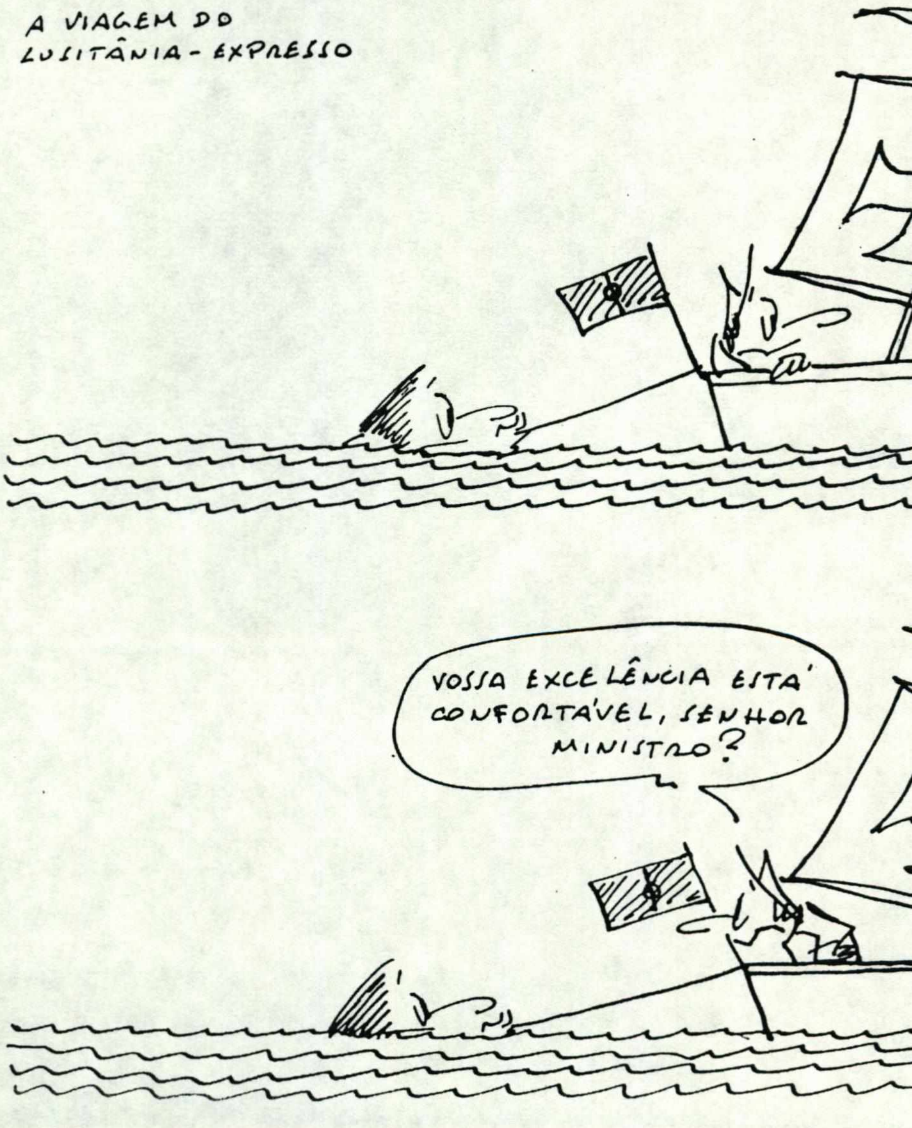
Recorte de Imprensa

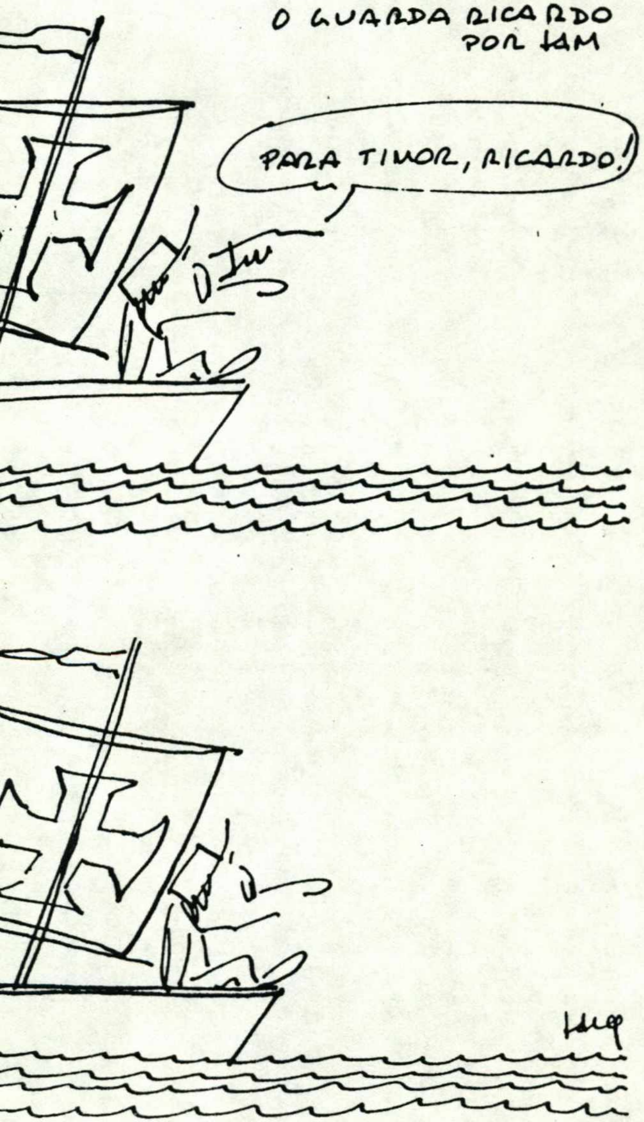
"The Age"

10. 3 92

DARWIN
THE PEACE BOAT
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Nicholson

9/3/92


A VIAGEM DO LUSITÂNIA-EXPRESSO
VOSSA EXCELÊNCIA ESTÁ CONFORTÁVEL, SENHOR MINISTRO?


O GUARDA RICARDO
POR IAM
PARA TIMOR, RICARDO!
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